

Mrs. Clinton  
urges summit  
wives to help  
children**MP names Hariri in bribery scandal**

BEIRUT (R) — A parliamentary deputy who charges that bribery is poisoning Lebanon's public life said he named billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri and Finance Minister Fuad Siniora to prosecutors on Monday. Christian MP Najib Wakim told reporters he gave the names of the two men to chief financial prosecutor Ahmad Takieddine who summoned him to give evidence after he made sweeping charges of high-level bribery and corruption last month. Mr. Wakim's accusations are among a series of corruption scandals which are shaking Lebanon's political establishment and have provoked public calls for a cleanup. Asked to name those he identified to the prosecutor, Mr. Wakim said: "If you are interested in knowing names, among others, I say Rafik Al-Hariri and Fuad Siniora... these of course are not the only ones. There are others... I presented the financial prosecutor's office with all the information I have which I think constitutes crimes under the criminal code, the monetary and credit law or the law on illegal wealth. I am sure that the investigation is going to be carried out to the end in the interest of justice and the country."

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**4 members of Al-Tahrir jailed**

AMMAN (AFP) — Four members of a banned Islamic party have been jailed for three years each for distributing leaflets slandering the King, judicial officials said Monday. The four members of the Islamic Liberation Party (Al-Tahrir) were convicted of "distributing leaflets slandering the King and membership of an illegal organisation," the officials said. Leaflets which condemned Jordan's peace treaty with Israel signed on October 26 were found in their possession. The officials named the jailed fundamentalists as Subhi Salim Sarsour, 51, his son Adel, 27, Ali Harb, 24, and Abdul Majid Qazzaz, 27. The party, which does not recognise secular Arab regimes, is the only one in Jordan not to have applied for an official licence when political parties were legalised in 1992 after a 35-year ban.

**Iraqi runaway killed at border**

AMMAN (AFP) — An Iraqi national was shot dead by Iraqi soldiers as he tried to cross into Jordan at the Rweished border post, Jordanian police said Monday. The victim, who was not identified, was hit by several bullets at the crossing, 275 kilometres east of Amman, and died on his way to hospital, they added. The shooting was the first incident of its kind to be reported by Jordanian authorities. A 90-kilometre sand wall was erected in 1992 along the Jordan-Iraq borders to curb smuggling and infiltrators.

**Group protests use of minors by Shin Beth**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli human rights group has protested to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin over the use of youngers under 18 for secret service missions in the occupied West Bank. Yitzhak Kedman, head of the National Committee for the Protection of Children, said Monday he wrote to Rabin when he first heard about the employment of minors by the secret service. "The prime minister replied that indeed young Israelis, less than 18 years old, are employed for precise intelligence-gathering missions in exceptional cases, and not necessarily with the consent of their parents," Mr. Kedman said. "This practice is illegal and if it does not stop, our association will appeal to the supreme court." A senior defence ministry official, Chaim Israeli, said minors were used only to prevent "violent operations which could lead to loss of life." Israeli, quoted by the Ma'ariv newspaper Monday, did not explain which duties were given to young people.

**Fundamentalist's suspected killers hired by Israel'**

GAZA CITY (AP) — Palestinian police Monday announced the arrests of several men who allege they were hired by Israel to assassinate an Islamic fundamentalist leader last month. Brig. Gen. Ghazi Jabali, Palestinian police chief in Gaza, was quoted by Israel radio as saying three men confessed to rigging the Nov. 2 car bomb that killed Hami Abed, a leader of the Islamic Jihad movement that opposes Israel-PLO peace talks. The men claim to have been hired by an Israeli secret police agent stationed at one of the Israeli settlements remaining in the Gaza Strip. Brig. Jabali was quoted as saying, "Palestinian sources, speaking anonymously, told the AP five men were arrested in the case 10 days ago. They included a bodyguard for another Islamic leader and a lieutenant in the Palestinian police, they said. The sources said they were trained and provided explosives by an Israeli officer who ordered Mr. Abed's killing.

**Harrods ejects wheelchair protesters**

LONDON (AP) — Staff at Harrods department store ejected a group of protesters who had been occupying some shop floors. The protesters, who were demanding the British government release of the 100 Kurdish political prisoners held in Turkey, were told to leave the store by security guards. The protesters, who had been occupying the shop floors since November, were told to leave by security guards. The protesters, who had been occupying the shop floors since November, were told to leave by security guards.

**Prisoner wants tougher sentence**

BETTE DAVIS HOLLY ROYCE SETS \$500,000

## King arrives in Casablanca

### OIC ministers near accord on Iraq-Kuwait, Jerusalem issues

RABAT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday arrived in Casablanca to take part in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit due to open today.

King Hassan II of Morocco was at the head of Moroccan dignitaries welcoming King Hussein and the Jordanian delegation upon their arrival.

The King is accompanied to the meeting by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ibn Al-Hussein,

Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al-Hussein, Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, Prince Rashid Ibn Al-Hassan as well as Prime Minister Abdulfattah Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher and Dr. Khaled Karaki, the King's advisor.

King Hussein is scheduled to deliver Jordan's address to the summit in which he is expected to outline the situation prevailing in the Islamic World and the challenges facing it as well as regional and international events.

He is also expected to meet separately with heads of the participating nations.

Meanwhile, foreign ministers from Islamic countries tried to hammer out a last-minute deal between Iraq and Kuwait on the eve of the two-day summit conference.

The dispute delayed preparatory talks which were due to end Sunday ahead of the summit of the 51-member OIC opening Tuesday.

Iraq called at Kuwait demands for full compliance with the U.N. resolutions which ended the 1991 Gulf war, officials said.

Baghdad had wanted a resolution recognising its progress in meeting the demands, which include a return of all Kuwaiti prisoners.

### Arafat slams Rabin's proposal on pullout

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat said Monday he was astonished that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had suggested leaving Israeli troops in Palestinian West Bank towns when elections are held.

The comment from Mr. Rabin, on a plane from Oslo to Tokyo, blew into the open an issue that had simmered behind the scenes this weekend as the PLO and Israeli leaders accepted the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize in Norway, Palestinian sources said.

"I am astonished because no one can accept to carry on an election in the presence of the occupying power," Mr. Arafat told a news conference.

Palestinian officials and Mr. Arafat himself were said to be furious that Mr. Rabin had gone public with a suggestion that two million Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and Jericho should vote under the barrels of Israeli guns.

A red-faced Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he was not aware of his prime minister's comments on Israel radio and declined to be drawn into discussion on the subject during a news conference with Mr. Arafat and Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson.

"Finally we shall succeed, but let's not treat the beginning of the negotiations as though they were the end," he said, adding Israel was interested in enabling Palestinians to have elections at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying: "We have yet to reach a clear answer and the clarifications will continue."

"What we must decide... is are we going at this stage to enter into negotiations on the whole arrangement, or are we going to find a solution to advance elections without the thing requiring the withdrawal from the population cen-

"Even one per cent progress would be a success," a Gulf official told AFP.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said there was "the possibility of an accord."

An Iraqi delegation headed by Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan headed for Casablanca Monday.

Officials said the delegation would call for a debate on the "suffering of the Iraqi people" caused by the international trade embargo imposed on Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) also disputed wording on the future of Jerusalem, ministers said.

But the two later appeared to have agreed Jordan would continue as custodian of the East Jerusalem holy sites until the Palestinians recover sovereignty over the city in negotiations with Israel.

The ministers were to adopt a draft of more than 50 resolutions, notably one demanding a halt to Serb attacks on Muslims in Bosnia and another on stamping out Islamic militancy.

Nerkez Arifhodzic, a Bosnian delegate, described the document on Bosnia as "very solid."

All the ministers agreed on the wording of the resolution on Bosnia.

The eight-page draft document calls for urgent action to help the Muslim-led government in Bosnia fend off advancing Serb forces.

It called for the 23,000-strong U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia to be increased and reinforced with heavy artillery.

OIC states have offered to commit more troops to UNPROFOR, but Mr. Musa said more Islamic peacekeepers would be sent only "within the U.N. framework."

The document also called for an end to the international arms embargo on Bosnia.

Egypt's fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood urged the Islamic leaders meeting in Morocco to provide arms for the Bosnian Muslims.

The ministers were also to vote on an unprecedented plan to prevent the spread of Muslim militancy.

It calls for OIC members to refuse to finance or support "terrorist acts" and to ensure that their territory is not used by violent groups to plan or carry out attacks.

Javad Zarif, Iran's deputy foreign minister for international affairs, said "we have a very good resolution on the draft code of conduct on terrorism."

Algeria — which helped to draw up the draft with Egypt, Turkey, and Tunisia — has accused Iran of aiding Islamic militants — a charge denied by Tehran.

Iran said Monday its position on relations with the West differed from that of most other Islamic countries.

"It appears the participants in the conference are trying to present a profile favourable to the West. However, Iran's opinion is contrary to what most of the participants believe," said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

"It is the West that should change its profile to attract Muslims to their side," Mr. Velayati said in Casablanca. "It is absolutely wrong to support the West if it continues to insult Islamic values."

### DFLP, PFLP merge military

SIDON, Lebanon (AFP) — The Damascus-based Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP), both opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process, have decided to merge their military leaderships.

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian trying to infiltrate into Israel from the self-rule area of the Gaza Strip before dawn on Monday, Palestinian sources reported.

The soldiers opened fire after the group ignored their call to turn back, the report said.

One infiltrator, a 22-year-old Gaza resident, was killed in the incident. The other seven escaped back into the occupied territories and from South Lebanon.

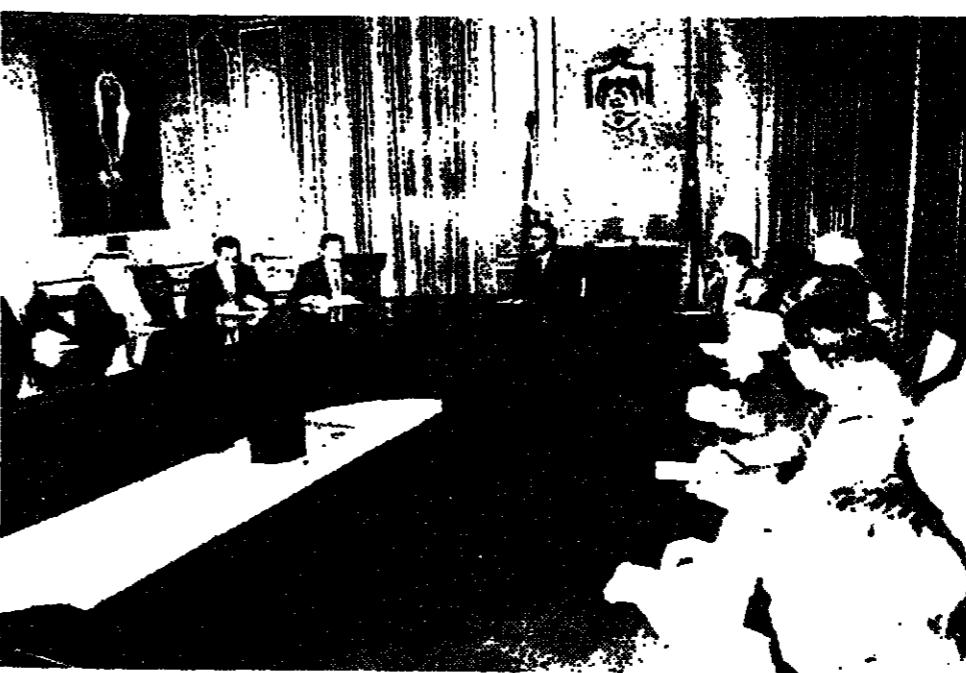
The force "will not get into conflicts with the Palestinian Authority" which runs the self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank, Mr. Hassan stressed.

It is the first military merger between the two movements, which are the largest groups in the Palestine Liberation Organisation after Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

Mr. Hassan said the merger was the "prelude to complete union" between the PFLP and DFLP.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat has set up a new 15-member Fatah leadership in Lebanon following clashes between rival Palestinian groups in the 'Ain Al-Hilweh refugee camp on Nov. 25 in which six people were killed and 13 wounded.

Sultan Abul Ayyan, Fatah spokesman for the Tyre region in South Lebanon, was appointed Fatah chief with the title of secretary-general for the whole of Lebanon.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday chairs a meeting of the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee (Petra photo)

## Jordan is committed to the principle of peace — Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday that Jordan regarded the issue of peace as a question of national priority that is based on firm principles.

Jordanian opposition should be a national opposition that should not oppose the principle of peace, per se, the Regent said.

Addressing the chairman and members of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, the Regent said that Jordan's desire for peace and its implementation emanated from the Kingdom's own will and was not motivated by major powers in order to end the injustice that had befallen the country resulting from misinterpretation of the Jordanian position, the Prince said.

The Crown Prince called for the creation of what he called a Jordanian cultural project within the framework of an Islamic concept and founded on scientific basis.

He said that strengthening Jordan's foreign relations was one of the country's prime objectives.

On the question of Jerusalem, the Regent said that

the issue was important and should serve as a meeting point for all the seven septs of Islam and not only be confined to Jordan and Palestine alone.

With relation to Europe, he said Jordan was trying to bolster its European ties and enhance Euro-Arab dialogue which can pave the ground for cooperation in solving important issues like the refugees question. The Prince said the general census currently underway would satisfy the state's need for accurate information important for sound planning and the right decisions in the socio-economic development process.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Abdul Karim Kabariti expressed the committee's full support for Prince Hassan's endeavours.

The meeting was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Regent's advisor Mohammad Saqqaf and other officials.

## Germany suspends expulsion of Kurds

BONN (AFP) — Germany suspended Monday the expulsion of Kurds to Turkey amid human rights concerns sparked by recent heavy jail terms handed out to Turkish Kurd deputies convicted on separatism charges, a government spokesman said.

The expulsion of Kurds living illegally in Germany was suspended until at least January 20, 1995, he said.

On Thursday, five Kurdish deputies were sentenced to 15 years in jail, and three others received sentences ranging from three to seven-and-a-half years after a special court in Turkey found them guilty of fomenting separatism.

Earlier Monday the Free Democrat Party (FDP), holding a special congress at Gera, east Germany, called on the government to suspend provisionally the expulsion of Turkish Kurds.

The verdicts against the Kurdish deputies were "an attack on parliamentary democracy and the independence of these deputies," former foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said.

Mr. Vogel added that the government would show understanding to state governments which decided to delay expelling Kurds who have had their applications for political asylum rejected.

Expulsions are a state responsibility.

A number of states run by the opposition Social Democrats have been deferring expulsions for as long as possible, provoking the anger of the hardline federal Interior Minister Manfred Kanther.

He supports the immediate expulsion of rejected asylum applicants and Kurds who break German law.

Mr. Vogel said the government would closely study the conviction of the Kurdish eight at a Dec. 19 meeting between EU and Turkey.

## Jordan, Israel discuss transport

THE DEAD SEA (Petra) — Jordanian and Israeli officials and experts started talks on land, sea and air transport between the two countries.

Dureid Mahasneh, who leads the Jordanian side, said after the first day session that the two sides focused their attention during the first day on land transport and the use of small vehicles and buses used to transport tourists between the two countries.

# Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1994

## Tension runs high in S. Lebanon, U.S. sets conditions for improved ties

**TEL AVIV** (Agencies) — The Israeli army will have to go on the offensive in South Lebanon and strike at Hezbollah to counter the upsurge in its deadly guerrilla operations, the commander of Israel's northern region warned Monday.

"The Israeli army is going to have to take the initiative in the war against Hezbollah, attack the terrorists and beat them," General Amiram Levine told military radio.

"Hezbollah is a serious adversary, which does not distinguish between civilians and soldiers in its attacks. We must fight it without mercy. We will crush it," he said.

The general was speaking as the Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist group stepped up its attack in Israel's self-declared "security zone," a strip of occupied land along the border in South Lebanon.

"Hezbollah guerrillas attacked Israeli troops and their proxy militia on Monday, wounding three militiamen, the South Lebanon Army said.

Israeli troops killed four Hezbollah fighters Sunday after they attacked an army patrol, leaving one Israeli officer dead and seven other soldiers wounded.

Israeli Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak meanwhile said the Jewish state had dealt "severe blows to terrorist organisations" in South Lebanon.

"We have killed 20 terrorists in a month," he said, adding that Israel had undergone "more difficult times, during which the terrorists had much more success."

Hezbollah last week pledged to wipe out the SLA and claimed attacks on the SLA that killed nine militiamen.

The guerrillas, who spearhead anti-Israeli attacks in the region, are staunchly opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks and seek to liberate South Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

Meanwhile, last week's visit by a senior U.S. envoy marks a new beginning in relations that could ultimately lead to the lifting of an American travel ban on Lebanon.

But the Americans are setting stiff conditions on the Beirut government if Washington is to reconsider the restrictions, the leftist newspaper As Safir reported Monday.

Robert Pelletreau, assis-

tant secretary of state for Near East affairs, was the first senior U.S. official to visit Lebanon in about a year, signalling an American will to improve strained ties.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told the independent An Nahar newspaper in remarks published Monday that Mr. Pelletreau's discussions "aimed at reiterating Washington's desire to reorganise Lebanon-American relations and its readiness to discuss with authorities the issues that led to the (travel) ban."

Mr. Pelletreau, who met President Elias Hrawi and other government leaders on Friday, has said Washington wants to see ties with Beirut improve and increase.

As Safir said Mr. Pelletreau spent an extra day in Beirut on Saturday away from the spotlight to conduct fact-finding discussions with business leaders and politicians outside of government as well as top faculty at the American University of Beirut.

American companies were losing out to European and Asian competitors in the reconstruction boom, and a group of Lebanese-Americans who visited Beirut this fall urged an end to U.S. restrictions.

There are signs now that Washington was starting to ease its measures.

The U.S. government's Export-Import Bank resumed financing programme in Lebanon in November after freezing transactions with the Arab country during the civil war.

Mr. Pelletreau's visit and announcement that a new ambassador would be appointed soon to fill a post vacant for four months was a positive step in relations.

But President Bill Clinton's did not visit Lebanon during his recent Middle East tour.

U.S. diplomats still live in a fortified compound and venture out only in heavily armed motorcades.

Mr. Pelletreau flew in by helicopter from Cyprus to avoid landing at Beirut international airport, which is surrounded by Hezbollah strongholds. His movements in the city were shrouded in secrecy.

The measures, and the embassy's refusal to even confirm his presence in Lebanon, were a signal that the Americans are not yet ready to plunge back into Lebanon in full gear.

American restrictions also included a boycott by U.S. airline companies on flights to Beirut airport and a ban on Middle East Airlines. Lebanon's flag carrier, from flying to New York.

The travel ban was prompted by the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut. The Shi'ite hijackers killed an American passenger during the 17-day ordeal.

Nearly 100 Westerners were kidnapped by Muslim extremists during the civil war. Suicide car-bomb attacks on two U.S. embassy building and a U.S. Marine Corps base in Beirut in 1983-84 killed 260 Americans.

Seventeen Americans were kidnapped between 1983 and 1984. Around 15 men, women

and children huddle in a small room around an oil burner to keep warm as Mr. Hussein, wearing a flowing galabiya and chequered headscarf sits like a king to tell his story.

It begins with complaints. Potato seeds imported from Belgium cost too much, the price of a litre of milk is falling and the government is doing nothing to help farmers.

He retired from the business with at least \$100 million to his name, and now states in all seriousness that "drugs are bad for you." Cautiously he declines to give his real name.

In 1943, when Lebanon gained independence from France, Mr. Hussein bought arms from the French army and sold them in his native Bekaa village in eastern Lebanon.

He retired from the business with at least \$100 million to his name, and now states in all seriousness that "drugs are bad for you." Cautiously he declines to give his real name.

He also blasts the international community for promising to help farmers to find alternative crops to cannabis and opium poppies "but not doing much."

After a few drinks the complaints fade away.

Mr. Hussein speaks of the property he owns in several parts of Lebanon and a million-dollar construction project in Beirut from which he hopes to secure six million dollars.

Such a success story is rare in the Bekaa, where for most small farmers who chose to cultivate cannabis and opium poppies instead of tomatoes out of sheer necessity "life now is hard, very hard," Mr. Hussein says.

People will wait a short while and then start planting hashish again. "They have the seeds," he says.

The warning was echoed by Sultan Haydar, the government representative to the U.N. rural development programme for the Baalbek and Hermel regions in the Bekaa.

"People here have nothing to lose, there is a real danger that hashish cultivation will start again," Mr. Haydar said.

## Japan pledges support for Middle East peace

**TOKYO** (AFP) — Yitzhak Rabin, making the first visit here by an Israeli prime minister, was assured Monday of Japan's continued support for the Middle East peace process and Palestinian self-rule, Japanese officials said.

Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama told Rabin that Japan would continue assistance to the Palestinians in stabilising the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, the officials said.

The two premiers met for about one hour after Rabin arrived from Oslo where he received the Nobel Peace Prize with co-winners Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Rabin thanked Japan for providing \$10 million in aid to build housing for the Palestinian police and for taking part in the peace process through multilateral working group talks, the officials said.

Speaking more generally, the Japanese premier was quoted as telling Mr. Rabin that it was "meaningful that the two countries pursue a policy dialogue with the aim of playing an active role in the international community after the cold war."

After the meeting at the Akasaka Palace state guest house, the two premiers signed an agreement to promote cooperation in science and technology.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Israeli Ambassador to Japan Amos Ganor also signed documents on cultural exchanges be-

tween the two countries.

Mr. Rabin, accompanied by his wife Leah, was scheduled to call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace Tuesday. He will also meet Foreign Minister Kono and Tokuchiro Tamazawa, the state minister for defence.

On Wednesday, Rabin will hold talks with Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura before flying on to Seoul for a four-day visit to South Korea.

The Israeli premier told reporters in Jerusalem Sunday he hoped to strengthen economic ties with the Asian powerhouses.

Israel's exports to Japan have taken off since it complained about Japan's discreet adherence to the Arab boycott before the 1992 autonomy deal with the Palestinians. Japan heavily depended on the Arab World for its oil imports.

Exports to Japan — mainly cut diamonds — climbed some 20 per cent from a year earlier to \$613 million in the first eight months of 1994. Imports tumbled to \$634 million.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Emir dissolves Kuwait City council

**KUWAIT CITY** (AFP) — The emir of Kuwait has dissolved the municipal council running Kuwait City following arguments among its 16 members, officials said Monday. The council — the only one in the emirate — was "dissolved to protect the public interest, because the lack of cooperation among its members blocked its activities," said a decree issued by Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, quoted by the official news agency KUNA. Other towns in Kuwait are run by municipal centres subordinate to the Kuwait City Council. The council, set up in October 1992 with a four-year mandate, consisted of 10 directly elected members and six appointed by the government. KUNA said the six government appointees resigned recently "to protest at the lack of cooperation from the council chairman, Mohammad Al Shavaa," who is close to Islamic fundamentalists. Sheikh Jaber dissolved both the municipal council and parliament in 1986 for "abusing democracy."

### 'Piranhas' found in Sea of Galilee

**GALILEE** (AFP) — Surprised fishermen netted two piranha-like flesh-eating fish with sharp teeth in the Sea of Galilee, state radio reported. The fish, of a type never seen before in the sea, have been set to Jerusalem University to be examined by experts. "They look very much like piranhas," the small, voracious fish from South American rivers, said one expert Yerukim Arieli. The mayor of Galilee, Yossi Peretz, believes the 30-centimetre (12 inch) long fish may be piranhas released from a private aquarium into the sea in northern Israel.

### Tourism in Israel up 10 per cent

**JERUSALEM** (AP) — Tourism in Israel was about 10 per cent higher this year than in 1993, the government said Sunday. A tourism ministry statement said that 1,692,100 visitors came to Israel through November. Without providing a comparable figure, it said this was about a tenth higher than January through November of last year. It added that tourism was also about 10 per cent higher in September through November than during the summer. The rise in tourism comes in the wake of two Arab-Israeli peace agreements signed in the past year, including the September 1993 Israel-PLO accord and the treaty with Jordan signed in October.

### Alleged informer killed in southern Egypt

**CAIRO** (AFP) — Three Islamic militants shot dead an alleged police informer in the troubled Mallawi region of southern Egypt Sunday, police said. Salah Abdul Aziz, a farmer, was outside his home in the village of Nawai, 300 kilometres (186 miles) south of Cairo, when the gunmen opened fire from nearby sugar cane fields. The attackers, members of the outlawed Gamala Islaamiyya group, later fled. The militants had accused Mr. Abdul Aziz of informing police about their hiding places. Earlier Sunday Egyptian police shot dead an Islamic militant in a gunbattle as they tried to arrest him in the southern town of Asyut, 380 kilometres south of Cairo, it said. "He opened fire on the policemen who retaliated, killing him on the spot. They discovered a pistol near the body." The latest deaths raise to 524 the number of people killed since Muslim militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to topple the secularist government of President Hosni Mubarak.

### Syria, Lebanon won't lease occupied territory

**DAMASCUS** (AP) — Syria and Lebanon will not relinquish any of their territory held by Israel and will not lease any of that land to the Jewish state, the state-run Damascus Radio said Monday. "We affirm anew that Syria and Lebanon will not give up any of their rights or part of their land, nor will they offer their land for lease and their rights to auction," the radio said in a commentary. The broadcast appeared to be aimed at staking out Damascus' position in advance of a new round of contacts between Syria and Israel in Washington sometime soon, ending a 10-month deadlock in their peace negotiations.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Pollards  
17:30 ... Un Pour Tous  
18:00 ... Embarkement Porte I  
18:30 ... Les Intégristes  
19:00 ... News in French  
19:45 ... Variétés  
19:50 ... F.B.I. The Untold Stories  
20:00 ... World Echo  
20:30 ... Questions Top  
Cracking The Code  
22:00 ... News in English  
22:30 ... First Circle  
23:10 ... Fly By Night

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## Delors pullout signals cut-throat election battle on French right

**PARIS (AFP)** — France headed Monday for a cut-throat presidential election campaign after Socialist Jacques Delors' decision not to run left the field open for a plethora of conservative and anti-European candidates.

The decision by Mr. Delors, the outgoing president of the European Commission, revived the hopes of Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac and augured for a bitter struggle on the right with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, in the race to replace Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

But Mr. Delors' move, virtually guaranteeing a right-wing candidate will be elected to the Elysee Palace next May, risked spawning a host of rival candidates who would have been deterred from standing for fear of splitting the conservative vote.

Mr. Delors, seen as the only electable Socialist candidate to replace President Francois Mitterrand, left Mr. Balladur best-placed in opinion polls, but maybe not for long.

The prime Minister's over-exposure, perceived lack of dynamism and stuffy image, could wear down his poll lead, analysts said. As Mr. Chirac mounts a counter-offensive.

Mr. Balladur must retain the support of pro-European centrist elements in his parliamentary majority, but in eight successive opinion polls Mr. Delors had won backing from that electorate and overtaken the prime minister.

Noted moderate and pro-European Raymond Barre, a former prime minister, has left open the possibility of a

candidacy and could be tempted to try to inherit the Delors mantle.

Significantly, Mr. Barre had a 45-minute interview with Mr. Mitterrand last Thursday, shortly after saying he had not yet ruled out a candidacy.

Another challenge to Mr. Balladur is being brandished by the centrist Charles Millon, head of the UDF (Union for French Democracy) group in the National Assembly.

Mr. Millon has threatened to run on the UDF label while a key element of the Balladur strategy has been to persuade the UDF to rally behind him and not put up its own candidate. Like Mr. Chirac, Mr. Balladur is a member of the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR).

The temptation to run might also be felt by anti-European Charles Pasqua, the interior minister, and National Assembly speaker Philippe Seguin, flanked by such fringe candidates as radical anti-European Philippe De Villiers and far-right National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

On the left, there are several potential candidates — including former Culture Minister Jack Lang and former Premiers Michel Rocard and Pierre Mauroy — but none is likely to win enough support to present a serious threat in the elections, due in April and May.

With the election, a two-year period of power-sharing, or "cohabitation," between left and right that began last March when the Socialists were routed in legislative elections, will come to an end.

Mr. Delors said the fact that a leftwing president would have to cohabit with a centre-right government had influenced his decision.

"Frankly, I would not like to have been elected to cohabit with a government that did not share my views. I would feel that I had lied to the French people by proposing plans for France that could not be put into practice."

Reaction to Mr. Delors' decision not to run for French president ranged from shock to admiration Monday, with Euro-sceptics relieved that he will not be pushing his federalist ideas from the Elysee.

The money-markets, which have made no secret of their admiration for "Mr. Europe," were clearly disappointed with the decision, the French franc slipping as soon as trading opened Monday morning.

But it said: "M. Delors was always of enormous assistance to their cause since the simplicity of his ideas and the passion in which he explained them gave them a comprehensive enemy."

Meanwhile money market reaction was dominated by a slip in the French franc in early trading Monday in response to Delors' decision. The franc fell to 3.44 to the mark, before rising again slightly later in the morning.

Against the dollar, the franc dropped a centime to 5.4288 francs for one dollar from 5.4188 Friday.

"Its weakness is essentially due to Jacques Delors' announcement," said David Coleman, analyst at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "Political uncertainty continues in France and the market is uneasy," he said.

In Switzerland and Spain he was praised for his "political honesty," while the Danish daily Information lamented that "the flame of hope... in the Socialist camp

has been definitively snuffed out."

Germany's General Anzeiger said simply: "For the first time, a politician who has triumphed over all his adversaries in the opinion polls has not allowed himself to be influenced by the trend," praising Mr. Delors as "a prudent man."

Euro-sceptics were relieved by the decision, although commentators pointed out that this could be a false benefit for some who liked to demonise Mr. Delors for their own political arguments.

"He realised that his candidature would inflame the debate on Europe in France, already as polarised and polemical as in Britain," said the Daily Telegraph in Britain, calling him the Euro-sceptics' "Beelzebub of Brussels."

But it said: "M. Delors was always of enormous assistance to their cause since the simplicity of his ideas and the passion in which he explained them gave them a comprehensive enemy."

Delors spurns ambition to avoid polarising France," ran the headline in Britain's Independent. "Know yourself should be the first rule in politics," it commented.

"There are very few people capable of observing it in a business driven by ambition and ideology and the pursuit of power. Yesterday, Jacques Delors showed that he understood it."

In Switzerland and Spain he was praised for his "political honesty," while the Danish daily Information lamented that "the flame of hope... in the Socialist camp

## Kinkel wins vote as FDP leader

**GERMANY (R)** — Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel won a vote of confidence as leader of Germany's Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) Monday, facing down critics who blamed him for the party's dismal election results over the past year.

Stung by abuse from within the party's own ranks, Mr. Kinkel demanded and won the vote of confidence at a special congress called to try to win back lost voters after a string of electoral losses.

Delegates backed Mr. Kinkel in a secret ballot by 390 votes to 185 with 24 abstentions, a result he termed "honourable and acceptable."

"Thank you for your trust," he said. "I will do everything in my power to get better election results and to ensure the FDP will have a better future."

Mr. Kinkel had been booted and jeered Sunday as he opened the Congress, prompting him to consider resigning as leader of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's junior coalition partners, party sources said.

In his speech Sunday, which was received with stony silence interspersed

with jeers from hecklers, Mr. Kinkel had called for the party to renew its liberal ideals.

"Yesterday was bitter," a wounded Kinkel told delegates before the vote, which did not affect his position as foreign minister.

"I want to know if I have your trust and to what extent and if I should remain at the helm of the FDP," he added.

The FDP has suffered nine devastating regional election losses in a row.

It plunged to 6.9 per cent

of the vote in the October general election from 11 per cent in 1990, leaving Mr. Kohl's coalition in office by the skin of its teeth with a tiny 10-seat majority in parliament's lower house.

Many FDP members have blamed Mr. Kinkel for the party's collapse in both support and morale.

Some, especially among the grass roots, have called for ministers to be barred from holding parliamentary seats, arguing that Mr. Kinkel does not have enough energy to devote to the FDP's rebirth while jetting around as foreign minister.

Mr. Kinkel fought back by pointing out the FDP's poli-

tical woes had coincided with the crisis in Bosnia and Germany's six-month presidency of the European Union, events which posed huge demands on him as foreign minister.

"His work load should start to ease next year, he said, allowing him to devote more time to reviving the FDP."

"The situation is as difficult as the party has ever faced, but I will not run away," Mr. Kinkel told the delegates.

Coalition officials played down the impact of internal FDP turmoil on the federal government.

"This is a process that concerns the FDP and its future development, but I believe the good atmosphere we have in the coalition... will not be endangered," Peter Hintze, general secretary of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, said in a radio interview.

But the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said the FDP congress showed the liberals had lost their identity.

"The Free Democrats are sinking in their own lack of profile and their inability to reform," SPD spokeswoman Dagmar Wiesbusch said.

## Taj glows in artificial moon light

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — A romantic moonlight view of the Taj Mahal will be possible year-round after engineers rigged up incandescent spotlights, a newspaper reported Monday. Special lights, timers and filters were used to block ultraviolet rays that archaeologists feared could harm the white marble of the 17th-century monument of love. The lights duplicate the movement of the moon across the sky from dusk to dawn, the Times of India newspaper reported. The monument will soon be opened to tourists all night, said. The Taj was closed at night some years ago following fears of attacks by separatists fighting for independence of the northwestern state of Punjab. It was reopened last year.

## More women, young among U.K. homeless

**LONDON (R)** — Britain is experiencing a new homelessness crisis with more women and younger people sleeping rough on the streets and in shelters, a charity said Monday. Centrepoint, a charity for the homeless, said that 40 per cent of those staying in its shelters were young women, compared with 26 per cent seven years ago. The number of 16 and 17-year-olds had jumped by 38 per cent, it said.

"We are seeing the emergence of a new homelessness crisis. It may be convenient for many to believe in the myth of feckless youngsters wilfully leaving home and coming to London to look for a good time," said Nick Hardwick, chief executive of centrepoint. "The truth is that these youngsters — barely out of childhood — have no homes to return to, no income and very little chance of finding work," he added.

A survey by six charities of 1,500 homeless people under 25 showed that 44 per cent were from ethnic minorities and most of the new homeless were forced to leave home. In 1982, 52 per cent of homeless claimed they left home to find work and to strike out on their own and 44 per cent said they were forced to leave. But recently up to 80 per cent said they had no choice but to go.

## Nothing sweet about birds' call of nature

**UNITA (R)** — Seven people were killed in a fight between Angolan government troops and UNITA rebels last week despite a new peace agreement, state media reported Monday.

Angola's Deputy Foreign Minister George Chikoti said in Malawi Sunday African states should send an interim peacekeeping force to his war-weary country until the U.N. decided to send in a large peacekeeping force.

"African countries... should get together with the Angolan government and send a peacekeeping force to Angola while we wait for a larger U.N. force to verify the peace process," Chikoti told Reuters.

The U.N. says it is unwilling to commit troops until both sides show they are serious about peace.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) has been fighting against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) since independence from Portugal in 1975. Attempts to reconcile the two sides in 1989 and 1991 failed.

**U.S., Vietnam settle property claims**

**HANOI (R)** — The United States and Vietnam have reached agreement on the fate of U.S. government properties seized when Communist forces won the Vietnam War nearly 20 years ago, U.S. officials said Monday.

U.S. and Vietnamese negotiators settled diplomatic property issues in several rounds of talks after President Bill Clinton lifted a U.S. economic embargo on Hanoi on Dec. 7 to put pressure on UNITA defense lines around Negage where the rebel movement controls an airfield.

"I cannot confirm these reports at all," he told Reuters.

Aid sources said at the weekend they had heard few reports of recent fighting but things seemed quiet.

"It seems to have been a bit quieter in a lot of places in the last week," one aid source said.

Mr. Albuquerque said U.N. observers based in the government-controlled city

of Huambo, recaptured last month from UNITA, had been in regular contact with the rebels in the central highlands province.

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**ROME (AP)** — There's plenty of "white stuff" in Rome this holiday season — but it's not making anyone feel festive. Thousands of birds taking roost near the Vatican have blanketed blocks with snow-white guano and turned the area into a showdown between human ingenuity and birds' natural urges. The birds are winning. Crows are speckled within minutes. Many residents have begun toting umbrellas as protection.

Officials said the accord on official properties covered 36 U.S. official buildings on 22 sites — all but three of them in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, and including the former U.S. embassy which is now occupied by a state oil company.

"The deal is expected to be signed by top officials next month clearing the way for the two former enemies to open diplomatic liaison offices in each other's capitals, the officials said.

"It was the culmination of steady progress that had gone on behind the scenes, the two former enemies to open diplomatic liaison offices in each other's capitals, the officials said.

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## Tokyo, Manila probe mid-air explosion

**TOKYO (AFP)** — Japanese and Philippine officials launched a joint investigation Monday into the mid-air explosion aboard a Philippine Airlines (PAL) Jumbo Jet with suspicion growing that a bomb was placed on the aircraft.

"We can't specify the cause of the explosion at this moment, but it is likely that an explosive material, possibly a bomb, was placed in the plane," a Japanese Transport Ministry investigator told AFP.

One passenger was killed and six others were injured in the explosion, which occurred Sunday on the Boeing 747-200 flight carrying 275 passengers and 20 crew from Manila to Tokyo via the central Philippine island of Cebu.

The investigation is expected to last a long time, another Japanese official said.

**Another disaster looms for Major in by-election**

**BRIERLEY HILL, England (R)** — British Prime Minister John Major looked set for another painful week as two opinion polls suggested his Conservative Party would be trounced in a parliamentary by-election next Thursday.

The death toll from the fire that engulfed the Friendship Hall last Thursday has risen to 325, officials said. The cinema was packed with 796 people, mostly children performing and watching a cultural show for a visiting 25-member illiteracy inspection team.

The youngest victim was eight years old.

Hundreds of doctors and burn specialists from across China have flown to Karakay, about 300 kilometres northwest of the Xinjiang provincial capital of Urumqi, to help treat the injured, another official said.

About 130 were injured, with 72 in critical condition, the legal Daily newspaper said. Hospitals have reported 225 hurt, with at least 21 unlikely to survive because of the severity of their burns.

"Most of the children have come out of shock, but they are now in the stage when they are most prone to infection," one official said. "If they can pass this stage then most will live."

Many citizens of the town of 220,000 had taken blood tests in case blood donations were needed, he said.

About 80 per cent of the victims have been buried with the rest of the funerals expected to be completed Tuesday.

The tiny casualties — most of them born under China's strict "one-child" policy — were buried in cemeteries at the foot of the town's Genghis Khan Hill, the official said.

"People are now waiting for the results of the investigation," he said.

**Patten smooths over Sino-British dispute</**

# World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1994 5

Tai glows in  
artificial  
moon light

NIW-DH-1111 (AP) — A romantic moonlight view of the Taj Mahal will be possible year-round after cameras rigged up to record events, reported Monday. Special lights, filters and filters were used to block ultraviolet rays that are believed to have damaged the white marble monument of love. The lights duplicate the movement of the moon across the sky from dusk to dawn, the Times of India newspaper reported. The monument will soon be open to tourists all night, it said. The Taj was closed at night some years ago following a series of attacks by separatists fighting for independence of the northwestern state of Punjab. It was reopened last year.

**More women,  
young among  
U.K. homeless**



THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING: A column of Russian troops, armour and anti-aircraft cannons heads toward the Chechen capital. The convoy was photographed about 50 km from Grozny as at least 200 Russian armoured vehicles were reported driving quickly from the west of the breakaway republic towards the capital (AFP photo)

## Northern League leader attacks Berlusconi

ROMA (AP) — Italy faces crisis with more women and young people sleeping rough on the streets and in shelters, a charity said Monday. A spokesman for the homeless said that 43 per cent of those staying in its shelters with young women, compared with 26 per cent seven years ago. The number of 16 and 17-year-olds had jumped by 38 per cent, he said. "We are seeing the emergence of a new homelessness crisis. It may be because of trying to believe in the myth of reckless youngsters suddenly leaving home and coming to London to look for a good time," said Nick Hurdwick, chief executive of Shelter. "The truth is that these younger people have no hopes to return to the decent lives they had before," he added.

A survey by Shelter of 5,000 homeless people showed that 42 per cent were 16 to 25 years old, and 30 per cent of the 20,000 homeless people leave home at 16-18. Sixty per cent of them are claimed to be left home to work and to live on their own and 44 per cent said they were forced to do so. But recently, 100,000 people have been housed in temporary accommodation.

Nothing sweet about birds' call of nature

majority."

Left wing and centre opposition parties support the formation of a provisional government charged with introducing a number of reforms, some relating to the electoral system, before calling a general election.

The idea has the support of the Northern League in his party's weekly newsletter. He said he would go ahead with a "verification" of the agreement between the coalition parties once the 1995 budget has been approved.

The budget legislation has passed the lower house of the Italian parliament and is now being considered by the Senate.

Mr. Bossi's criticism followed remarks by the Interior Minister Roberto Maroni during the weekend that the political crisis "was gathering speed." He spoke of the possibility of "another government led by another

majority." The political left was Monday predicting the fall of the government with the leader of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS, ex-Communists) Massimo D'Alema suggesting his party congress, due to take place in January, be postponed.

He told PDS members attending a meeting in Rome of the party's national council that the congress should be put off because of "the impending political crisis."

Meanwhile, Mr. Berlusconi will be questioned Tuesday by the pool of Milan "clean hands" judges leading Italy's corruption probe nearly three weeks after he came under investigation.

The meeting, put off since Nov. 26, is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. (1530 GMT), according to an announcement by the prime minister himself Friday from the European Union summit in Essen, Germany. Italian papers said he spent

the weekend in Arcore, near Milan, meeting with advisors to prepare for queries about bribes — before he became prime minister — allegedly paid to Italy's powerful Tax Police by companies in his huge Fininvest media-based business empire. His brother Paolo has already been indicted over the affair.

Since coming to power last March, Mr. Berlusconi has tried to reign in the "clean hands" judges whose corruption probes have helped decimate Italy's long-standing political and business elite — feeling they have too much power.

But the judges pressed on, and on Nov. 22 defiantly announced they would investigate Mr. Berlusconi himself who ironically rose to power as the ostensibly uncontaminated newcomer after the fall of the once-powerful Christian Democrats and Socialists.

## Ireland's Spring fends off attacks over child case

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Labour leader Dick Spring said Monday that charges he had misled the public over a child abuse case that brought down the government were an attempt to torpedo efforts to forge a new coalition.

Mr. Spring issued this counter-accusation on Irish Radio shortly before he was due to resume talks with the Fine Gael and Democratic

Left opposition parties on forming a new government. "I think this is another attempt to stop the government being formed," he declared.

The Labour leader's remarks were clearly aimed at the Fianna Fail party, which he broke off with last month in a row over the handling of a child abuse case that forced Prime Minister Albert

Reynolds to resign. Labour has portrayed itself as the party championing public accountability and Mr. Spring said Sunday that the allegations were "black propaganda" aimed at smearing his party's image.

Mr. Spring said he did not believe the charges would stop the formation "this week" of a left-right coalition with the conservative Fine

Gael party and small Democratic Left.

"I think there is a good prospect of putting together what will be a sensible government for this country," he said.

But political sources said that if the row over what Mr. Spring knew or did not know continued to rage, it could wreck coalition talks and even force general elections.

## U.S. senators call flying visit to N. Korea 'historic'

SEOUL (AP) — Two influential U.S. senators who flew to North Korea aboard an American military aircraft for the first time since the Korean War, arrived in the South Monday, saying their 24-hour visit had been "historic".

After briefing President Kim Young-Sam on the visit, Democratic Senator Paul Simon said: "We had a brief but historic visit to North Korea in the first U.S. plane to land in North Korea since 1953."

Republican Senator Frank Murkowski, an outspoken critic of the Oct. 21 nuclear accord between the North and Washington, said the two had told the North the United States would "comply with the agreement" despite Republican opposition.

However Sen. Murkowski said that both men had stressed they would like to see two suspect nuclear waste dumps opened earlier than specified in the agreement — which could take up to ten years to implement.

They had also requested a "significant" dialogue reopen between north and South Korea.

Speaking at a crowded press conference at the U.S.

embassy in Seoul, the two senators said they had asked, but failed, to meet North Korea's reclusive leader-designate, Kim Jong-II.

Officials had explained the junior Kim had not been in public for some three months and was still "in mourning" for his father, Kim Il-Sung, who died on July 8.

Instead they met Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam and Yang Hyong-Sop, the president of the North's rubber-stamp parliament, expressing concern over the nuclear accord and the belligerence of North-South relations.

"I am fearful that dialogue does not have a bridge," Sen. Murkowski said.

"There is clearly a need for some kind of dialogue," he said, adding that he was fearful relations were developing into a Taiwan-China pattern — years of little but the minimum necessary economic contact.

"While the U.S. intends to live up to its commitments, the sooner full and open inspections (of the two waste dumps) are opened earlier than specified in the agreement — which could take up to ten years to implement.

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Speaking at a crowded press conference at the U.S.

Sen. Murkowski also said that while he had not changed his opinion that the nuclear deal was badly flawed, the brief trip had moderated his views on North Korea.

"My opinion of North Korea has changed to some extent," he said.

"They have lost their leader, they are desperately in need of foreign exchange, energy... and assistance, and that assistance should be (provided) if it can be communicated," he added.

The senators said they "brought no specific message" back for the U.S. or to South Korea, which accepted the Geneva nuclear accord with reluctance and suspicion at the quickening pace of rapprochement with Washington.

But Sen. Simon said "there was no suggestion (the North) would not welcome the opening of ties."

The two senators flew into Pyongyang Sunday aboard a U.S. military plane, but the North reportedly scuttled their original plan of flying the same plane back over the demilitarized zone (DMZ) which would have made it a double historic first.

Instead the two travelled

south by car, and took a helicopter from the DMZ to Seoul.

They are scheduled to return to Washington Tuesday.

Meanwhile, North Korean press monitored in Tokyo reported that North Korea had repeated a long-standing demand that the "concrete wall" between the North and the South be torn down.

The DMZ, as agreed in the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War, is marked by wire fencing with cement tank-traps used by the North when it invaded the South in 1950.

Calling the DMZ the "Berlin Wall" of Korea, the North's mouthpiece, the Korea Central News Agency, called on "parliaments and politicians of all countries of the world" to urge the South to tear down the 240 kilometre-long long barrier.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said this year the U.S. would keep its 37,000 troops in South Korea until the North removed the bulk of its one million armed forces and tens of thousands of artillery pieces from threatening positions along the DMZ.

## Bosnian Serbs lift blockade of U.N. fuel convoy to Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb troops Monday lifted their blockade of a fuel convoy to allow the hard-pressed U.N. mission in Bosnia to get its first supplies of petrol and diesel for over three weeks, a U.N. spokesman said.

The six-truck French con-

voy with 30 tonnes of fuel for

the mission, whose supplies

had run so low it had started

cutting anti-sniper patrols

and other vital operations,

had been blocked at a Serb

checkpoint outside Sarajevo

for three days.

"They let it go," Colonel

Jan Dirk Van Merveldt,

spokesman for the U.N. Pro-

tection Force (UNPROFOR), told reporters.

However the Serbs, demonstrating the brinkmanship they have employed virtually throughout the civil war in their relations with the peacekeeping mission, were still holding three Danish fuel tankers hijacked at gunpoint by Serb soldiers Saturday.

U.N. officials emphasised that the French convoy would provide only enough fuel to operate at normal levels for six more days, adding that many more convoys were needed.

The release of the French convoy came shortly after UNPROFOR spokesman Thant Myint-U described the fuel situation as critical, adding: "We see this blockade of fuel and other essential supplies as an organised attempt to directly undermine the very basis of our mission."

The blockade was imposed by the Serbs after NATO

carried out air strikes against Serb targets in a bid to stop them attacking the U.N.-

designated "safe haven" of

Bihac in northwest Bosnia.

The U.N. Commander for

Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, was sched-

uled to meet Bosnian Serb

leaders at their headquarters

at Pale near Sarajevo Mon-

day to protest against the

blockade and against a new

Serb order banning U.N.

troops from escorting civilian

aid convoys.

On Saturday Gen. Rose

was snubbed by rebel Serbs

in Croatia, allies of the Bosnian Serbs, who barred him

from visiting Bihac.

U.N. sources said at least

five mortar, two tank and

four artillery rounds thudded

into Bihac Sunday. Three

mortar bombs fell 300 metres

from the town hospital.

Responding to the Serb

ban on military escorts for

U.N. humanitarian convoys

to civilians trapped by the

war, Mr. Thant said it would

make it impossible to get aid

to Sarajevo and Muslim en-

claves in eastern Bosnia.

"We do not accept this new

restriction as it affects our

most primary mandate in

Bosnia," he told reporters.

However, the U.N. relief

agency organising the aid de-

liveries said Monday it was

considering running convoys

without escorts provided the

drivers were willing.

A spokesman for the U.N.

High Commissioner for Re-

fugees, Kris Janowski, told

reporters a Norwegian team

was prepared to run a con-

voys without an armoured

escort.

The fuel shortage had

already forced the U.N. mis-

sion in Sarajevo to cut down

on its patrols, which offer

protection from snipers to

civilians and workers repairing

essential services in the

besieged capital.

Mr. Thant reported an in-  
crease in attacks on civilians  
in Sarajevo in the past few  
days, both from snipers and  
anti-tank rounds and missiles.

A wire-guided anti-tank  
missile fired by Bosnian  
Serbs smashed into the wall  
of a school in Sarajevo Sun-  
day, wounding a 13-year-old  
boy.

These attacks threaten to  
further destabilise the situa-  
tion in and around Sarajevo  
and make much more difficult  
any progress to peace at this critical time," he said.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, officials  
were making contingency  
plans to operate without  
fuel.

In the besieged Muslim en-  
clave of S

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1994

## Jordan Times

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## Peace on all fronts

THE RECENT revelation by the Public Security Directorate that crime has shot up by 50 per cent over the past five years is both shocking and unacceptable. It would be easy to explain this dramatic deterioration of law and order in the country on the basis of poverty and poverty-related factors. That there is a link between crime and economic conditions is a foregone conclusion, confirmed time and again by the experiences of many countries worldwide. This means that the most effective way to reverse the tide of crime in the Kingdom is to address the economic woes of Jordanians and put this subject on the top of the national agenda. Having attained external peace, with the signing and ratification of the peace treaty with Israel, should not blind us to the need to have and enjoy peace at home. As a matter of fact, the realisation of peace with Israel should set in motion the process of establishing peace and stability at home. The government has in effect been freed from external pressures to such an extent as to allow it to move effectively to eradicate crime from our society. Still, this priority consideration of "peace at home" cannot be attained without a dramatic improvement of the national mechanisms of law and order.

Both the police power and the administration of justice through the public prosecutor's office need to be revamped as well as bolstered materially and intellectually in order to render them effective across the board. The function of the police is a sophisticated business that calls for quality manpower. It is high time Jordanians with foreign education and exposure get recruited to stem the tide of crime. Organised crime calls for the most sophisticated technologies. The investment in law and order is therefore a pressing need and no matter how high is its price tag, we should do it as soon as possible. The country cannot prosper and develop if crime is on the rise. Now is the time to do something about this problem, before it gets out of hand.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily Monday cast a very gloomy look at the Islamic summit opening in Casablanca Tuesday, expressing belief that no deliberations would restore solidarity among the 45-member states. The Arab countries, which form nearly half the group of Muslim countries at the meeting, are in total disarray and have been so even when the Arab League was functioning, said Taher Al Adwan. This adverse element, together with the fact that the United States is adamantly pursuing the plot to destroy the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), are bound to render the Islamic conference ineffective, said the writer. Not only would the meeting show and prove that the OIC member countries are unable to settle their disputes and agree on common action to safeguard the nation's interests, the OIC members would also discover that their meeting would fall under United States hegemony which aims at creating a new regional bloc to replace OIC and the Arab League and to embrace Israel as a member of the new regional entity.

DISCUSSING the ever-rising prices of various commodities, especially the basic foodstuff, a writer in Al Ra'i said that the consumers are falling between the hammer of the merchants' greed that the anvil of tax increases imposed by the government. The merchants are continually making exorbitant profits, of course, at the expense of the consumers who are the real victims because prices are on the rise all the time even if the cost of products in the country of origin declines, said Samir Habashneh. The only way to come to the help of consumers is through concerted effort on the part of the executive as well as the legislative authorities working together. Unless the Jordanian citizens feel they are protected from manipulation and greed, the country's democracy and social justice would be the object of ridicule, stressed the writer.

## Bosnia crisis — malignant effect on world affairs

By G.H. Jansen

Bosnia-Herzegovina, that small, hitherto-remote and obscure country remarkable mainly for its long and unpronounceable name, has turned out to be the anvil on which the hammer of Serbia has cracked open a whole array of international organisations. These are: the larger Western alliance, that is the alliance between Western Europe and the U.S.; the U.N., specifically as a peacekeeping organisation; the smaller Western alliance, restricted to Western Europe; NATO; and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

And all this has happened because Bosnia-Herzegovina has a large Muslim element which the Christian countries of Western Europe, specifically Britain and France, are determined should not be permitted to emerge as the first Islamic country on the continent.

The larger Western alliance has split because the U.S. wants the U.N. embargo on the old Yugoslavia to be lifted for the

Bosnian area so that the Muslims can get arms to defend themselves against the attacks of the Orthodox Christian Serbs and of the Roman Catholic Croats, while the West Europeans want the embargo to be maintained so that the Muslims are crushed by their Christian neighbours and cease to be an Islamic threat.

This policy difference has produced really angry disputes between the U.S. and U.K./France with the latter telling the former: "Put up or shut up", because the U.S. resolutely refuses to commit peacekeeping American troops to Bosnia. That the U.N. is ineffectual could also be due to the fact that U.N. representatives like Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. bureaucrat on the ground, are weak and indecisive when faced with the tough decisions arising from the crisis over the Bosnian Muslims.

NATO came into the Bosnian picture at the request of U.N. to act as its enforcement arm, that is for

the Americans — that self-defence — is a sacred principle — does not carry full conviction; a more realistic reason is probably that the U.S. doesn't want to antagonise the Muslim countries controlling its supply of oil.

The U.N., as a force for peace, is reduced to impotence because it has been pulled this way and that by the conflicting policies of the U.S., the major contributor to the U.N. budget, and of the U.K. and France, two of the five permanent members of the Security Council and with soldiers in the U.N. force in Bosnia. That the U.N. is ineffectual could also be due to the fact that U.N. representatives like Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. bureaucrat on the ground, are weak and indecisive when faced with the tough decisions arising from the crisis over the Bosnian Muslims.

The smaller Western alliance is itself divided on Bosnia with the U.K. and France trying to protect Bosnia — along with Russia and Greece — while Italy and Spain favour a less partisan role.

It is the Bosnian and the Muslim element in the crisis that have inflicted great damage to the Organisation of

the Islamic Conference because the OIC has done little or nothing to help its hard-pressed co-religionists despite their desperate appeals for aid and succour. What is even worse than their indifference is the fact that even after Muslim countries sent contingents to the U.N. force, totalling 3,500 troops, to help the Bosnian Muslims, these troops did nothing to stop the Serbs' ethnic cleansing against the Muslims. Turkey, which is the nearest Muslim country near to Bosnia, was full of pro-Muslim bravado at OIC conference but was completely inactive on the ground. It is now trying to retrieve its besmirched image by saying that it will not pull out of Bosnia if and when the British and French troops leave. But it is left to be seen whether the Turks have enough Muslim pride and courage to desert and defy their European allies.

A consistent theme in U.S. policy on Bosnia has been: Bosnia is an European problem so it should be solved by the Europeans themselves, and by doing nothing that has become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The anti-Muslim Europeans are now saying that the Bosnian civil war is now finally over and that it is too late for outsiders to do anything about the immense tragedy that is Bosnia. In other words, the Western Europeans, who actively brought about that tragedy, are, in effect, proclaiming, sorrowfully: "Let us endure an hour and see injustice done." But after all the suffering and sacrifice endured by the Bosnian Muslims, they are unlikely to accept an unfair settlement. The crisis in Bosnia is by no means over and will continue to have a malign affect on world affairs.

defied the U.N. arms embargo by smuggling arms to the Bosnian Muslims but then admitted that 90 per cent of the arms fell into the hands of the Croats and so never reached the Muslims.

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## How long will Europe stand aloof from Algeria's war?

By Robert Fisk

A FEW WEEKS ago General Jacques Massu vouchsafed his advice to the embattled Algerian government of President Liamine Zeroual. "The security forces have the principal responsibility for the future of their country," the old French warrior announced. "With the West's help, their power will inevitably be successful."

That the commander of the brutal French paras who tortured their way to colonial victory in the Casbah in 1957 should be offering his counsel to the inheritors of the Algerian independence war illustrates just how far Algeria has collapsed in the past two years. How Mr. Zeroual's Islamist enemies must have cherished Gen. Massu's interference; some might call it the kiss of death.

But Gen. Massu at least caught the spirit of the times. In Algeria, it is now war to the death between the authorities and the ever growing army of Islamists who control much of the country and, increasingly, many towns. The West's "help", such as it has been, included a few words of encouragement for Mr. Zeroual to engage in "dialogue" with the leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and a carefully preserved silence over the government's two-year-old cancellation of the democratic elections, which the FIS would have won.

Now "dialogue" has apparently failed — irretrievably, by all accounts, when the FIS leaders extracted from Blida prison to urge moderation upon their members used their government-supplied fax machines to send out a new list of targets for the killers of the Islamic guerrilla armies. What is in store for the Algerian people is a

war that may prove even more savage than the great 1954-62 struggle for independence which cost almost a million lives. The official figure of 20,000 dead in the current conflict obscures the sheer cruelty with which many of these victims have died. Girls shot dead for refusing to wear the veil, sons beheaded because their parents are policemen, women raped to death in police dungeons, foreigners slaughtered on sight by Islamists. When the most recent, most terrible report came from the Algerian countryside — of two young women whose throats were cut because they refused to engage in "pleasure marriages" with Muslim guerrilla fighters — there were many outside Algeria who refused to believe it. What kind of Islamic fundamentalists murders Muslim girls because they will not indulge in what is, in many cases, a form of prostitution?

A few months ago, Mr. Zeroual's government would have tried to censor reports of such atrocities on the grounds that they were an exaggeration. But to mediate lies atrocites is now common practice. The two girls did indeed have their throats cut — their heads were afterwards cut from

their bodies. One of them was 25, the other 21, and both had been kidnapped along with other members of their family from their home at Blida. Their bodies were dumped beside the Blida-Alger motorway, their relatives later freed in a police raid. Anyone who doubts this should have listened to the voice of an Algiers housewife, talking down the echoing phone-line to Beirut before the girls were murdered. "I'm terrified every time I take the bus from home," she said. "because so many women are getting kidnapped. They take old women to cook and clean and they take young women for their pleasure."

If savage is therefore too weak a word to describe this war, perhaps ferocious is a better adjective. According to a defecting Algerian army officer, there are 50,000 troops engaged full-time in the "anti-terrorist struggle". He spoke of "secret liquidation" of many suspected Islamists, of police raids after the murder of security forces personnel that would end with policemen choosing five men at random from the neighbourhood and summarily executing them in reprisal. No wonder that a columnist in La Nation could state baldly last week that "the fear of

isolation is burdened by past history. A great deal of sensitivity is required," German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said after the EU summit on Saturday.

At that meeting, EU leaders invited their counterparts from six Eastern European countries and pledged to bring them gradually into the fold.

But they set no date — despite requests to do so from Poland and others. The EU has also left difficult political decisions about how Eastern European membership would affect subsidies in areas like agriculture a few days earlier.

Several of them hailed this as an achievement following the debacle at the 53-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) meeting in Budapest a few days earlier. That meeting ended in humiliating disarray. Russia vetoed a statement on the Bosnia crisis because the Muslim-led government wanted the CSCE to condemn "Serb aggression."

However, diplomats say

tomorrow is greater than the fear of today."

And here are the words of the writer Jules Roy, the pied-noir and former air force officer whose courageous La Guerre d'Algérie exposed French cruelty in the independence war. He loved Algeria with his soul but said last week: "I don't want to see it. Everything is overgrown with ruined slums, by the FIS and by the dictatorship of the National Liberation Front (which ruled Algeria for 30 years up to 1990) which has been rotted away by money. The Arabs have only changed despotism."

And here is a first-hand account of fraternal war: "Up the hill at Duc des Cars, there were two boys who went to school together and lived in the same building. One of them was a fundamentalist, the other a policeman. The fundamentalist was sent to a prison camp in the south. When he got out, he wanted revenge so he killed his schoolfriend, the policeman. So the policeman's father killed the Islamist. Everyone in our neighbourhood knew them."

"If you go to a policeman's funeral, the FIS says you're with the government. And if you go to an Islamist's funeral, the police come after you. So the people in our building paid condolences to both families."

The causes of the current tragedy are almost academic. The winners of the 1954-62 struggle, the National Liberation Front, betrayed their revolution, setting up dictatorships mired in corruption, sending the 60,000 female maquisards back to their kitchens, ignoring the freedoms they had promised their own people.

The most famous of the FLN survivors, Houari Boumediene, allowed an almost Maoist severity to rule

his intelligence, sending all rivals to the dungeons. Socialist-style industrialisation turned a potentially wealthy nation into a land of beggars where men now sleep 16 to a room in the sprawling bidonvilles of the great cities. When democracy was tried, it produced a clear win for the FIS; and then the army stepped in. The only uncorrupt leader the Algerians were given, old Mohammad Boudiaf, brought back from Moroccan exile at the start of the guerrilla war in 1957, proved too good for his own people. He was shot dead by one of his own policemen.

Did the eight-year independence war kill too many Algerians? Did all the real leaders die in battle or in the torture chambers of General Massu's paras? Certainly there is in Algeria — on all sides — a tragic failure of leadership. Phil Rees, the BBC journalist who has just travelled through the Alge-

## LETTERS

### We are all responsible

To the Editor:

I would like to express my sincere respect and highest appreciation to the Jordan Times tackling crucial issues related to our daily life; sexual harassment is a case in point.

Indeed, such an unhealthy phenomenon always outrages me as I see it everyday; it outrages anyone who has dignity and honour in this Arab country. I think this issue deserves constructive debates and just solutions.

Men and women complete each other and every sex has its own duties, rights and limitations. Or, let me say, each of them has a limited and clear orbit that it must rotate in a quietly and orderly way to avoid explosion and hindrances.

As a fresh male graduate from the Jordan University, I have observed and still observe ugly phenomena of sexual harassment by men, whether in universities, on campuses, buses, in markets, public places, etc.

I constantly ask myself about such an unacceptable behaviour. In the great majority of cases men are to be blamed. But a great number of women are not conservative or at least moderate in their attire, appearance, hair style and quantity and quality of perfumes. Naturally, such things may open a door for offenders to take the opportunity to misbehave, bother, comment, sneer and harass, a shameful attitude in our Arab-Islamic country.

It goes without saying that our society abominates and disdains such a behaviour and punishes anybody who tries to break the law. We should let every individual know that he/she is living in a democratic, Islamic and Arab country. We are not in other liberal countries who consider sexual harassment something normal.

From my experience, I find that married men are equally capable to stare, jeer, leer and comment when women pass by.

As for teenagers, they are socially ill. They are in need of education and psychological and mental culture.

I do not want to lay blame on men only or on women, but starting with the family, the nucleus of the society, to the supreme authority in our society. The family is not enough valuable notions to enable them to distinguish good from bad.

Syllabi in our schools do not treat issues like sexual harassment under the pretext that it is shameful. Universities consider students quite mature and far-sighted. But a large number of them, males and females, are in urgent need to be taught responsibility and knowledge to enable them to progress and develop.

I am asking why all our scientific foundations, such as schools, colleges, universities, are not outraged by such shameful behaviours? Have we been lulled into complacency? What has happened to our ideas and values? We are daughters, sisters and mothers more peacefully in our society. We all should take serious stances without taking of our sides. Indeed, we are all responsible for resolving problems

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters writer's full name and preferably address as well. Name can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## Features

### Fahrelnissa Zeid — a light for today's artists

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Many photos remain from the life of the late artist Fahrelnissa Zeid. One of the more interesting ones, perhaps, is an old black-and-white family portrait taken during the last years of the now-vanished Ottoman Empire, some 80 years ago.

Fahrelnissa Shakir, as she would have been called then, is perhaps nine years old. She, her mother, six brothers and sisters were dressed and posed with an elegant meticulousness which leaves no doubt to the rank of the family portrayed. Standing behind them is her father, a pasha in the Turkish army, with fez and handlebar moustache. He stares dead-on into the camera with unblinking pride.

Birth into a noble house was not all that Her Royal Highness Fahrelnissa Zeid was gifted with, as shown by a second relic from those twilight days of the Ottomans which is on display as part of a new exhibition at Darat Al Funun. A painting she did of her grandmother, when the artist was only 14, would challenge some adult, professional artists to paint its equal.

Some of the finest art schools in Istanbul and Europe were open to the young painter. But as she matured into adulthood, she seems to have been keenly aware of the possibility that her work might be dismissed by onlookers as simply another result of a rich woman's hobbies.

In 1960, she spoke to an interviewer of her desire not to be remembered as what her Turkish countrymen had come to name a "Kabaagatchi", or "a kind of freak", a lady of the Turkish feudal nobility who has thrown her yashmak over the nearest windmill and set her heart, Allah knows why, on becoming the first woman painter of her country much as other emancipated women of her generation have been.

Then, there is the fact that:

come politicians, physicians or lawyers."

Thirty years before those words, a professor in France had seen her sitting contentedly after completing a painting in his class, snatched up her canvas and threw it on the floor in front of her. Pasha's daughter or not, Fahrelnissa was a woman living in an age when professional women artists were not only a novelty in Europe, they were unheard of in the Middle East.

Fahrelnissa Shakir, as she would have been called then, is perhaps nine years old. She, her mother, six brothers and sisters were dressed and posed with an elegant meticulousness which leaves no doubt to the rank of the family portrayed. Standing behind them is her father, a pasha in the Turkish army, with fez and handlebar moustache. He stares dead-on into the camera with unblinking pride.

With time, however, her work as an artist would develop further and eventually prove to be anything but play. Critics have by now acclaimed her as one of the finest women painters to come from the Middle East. The sum of her efforts, which include an art school she founded and ran in Jordan during the last years of her life, can arguably be said to have been one of the major encouragements for other talented women of the region to break loose from tradition and pursue their own careers as professional artists.

Although only those who knew Fahrelnissa Zeid intimately would know for sure, possible firewood for the furnaces which pushed her to prove herself as more than just a "Kabaagatchi" is not so difficult to find. For one, her family did not possess merely wealth and rank — it was a beehive of intellectual activity as well. Her father, Shakir Pasha, was an accomplished historian and poet. A brother and sister of hers would go on to prove themselves in their own right as novelist and painter respectively. One suspects that while growing up in such a potentially competitive environment, the young Fahrelnissa had little leeway to develop a penchant for self-congratulation, no matter how prodigious and manifest her talents were.

Then, there is the fact that:

This volatile, rapid-fire nature of Fahrelnissa Zeid, the artist, stamps its brand on all the works she ever did as a mature painter. Indeed all of the many portraits she painted, studies in field which normally calls for attention to close-up, static detail, are well done enough but few, if any, are remarkable.

It is in the broader spaces and dimensions of her other works — they range through everything from still-lifes of living rooms to fantastic abstracts and violent scenes of war — that her distinctive gift of volatility finds the fuel it needs to erupt and blaze through the canvas — and light a trail for future generations of women artists from the Middle East to follow.

The exhibition of works by Fahrelnissa Zeid which opened at Darat Al Funun on Dec. 8 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, ends on Jan. 5.



Portrait by Fahrelnissa Zeid on display at Darat Al Funun

### Egyptian art slams American dream

By Nadia Abou Al Magd  
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Every night, a model of the Statue of Liberty explodes in a downtown theatre in a fitting climax to the play "Mama Amrika."

The explosive ending always draws cheers, which says much about attitudes among the audience of Egyptians and other Arabs. The play is only one of several, works gaining popular success by aiming barbs at America.

Mohammed Sobhi, director and star, says the scene is meant to depict "the falsehood of the symbol of liberty which does not exist outside the borders of the United States — unless there is oil or uranium."

Three recent movies — "The Land of Dreams," "Abracadabra America" and "Visit of Mr. President" — criticise U.S. policies and chide Egyptians for wanting to emigrate to the United States.

This doesn't mean all Egyptians are anti-American. There is a fascination with things American, from jeans and T-shirts to McDonald's restaurants.

But in Egypt — a strong U.S. ally and one of the top recipients of American foreign aid — many people see the United States and its cohort Israel as trying to dominate the Middle East at the expense of the Arabs.

In "Mama Amrika," a black comedy heavy with symbolism, the hero represents Egypt. He and his brothers (other Arab nations) are in a struggle with a rich businesswoman (America) and her cousin (Israel), who are out to usurp the brothers' inheritance.

In the end, the hero's mind is taken over by mysterious injections after he marries America. He goes to see the Statue of Liberty — symbol of freedom — but it explodes in front of him.

He is arrested by a policeman who declares: "If you are Egyptian and Arab, you must be a terrorist."

"I am not a terrorist," he

hero protests. "Yes, I'm Egyptian, I'm Arab, but I'm not a terrorist. I love America, I love peace," his screams go in vain, and he is led away.

Mr. Sobhi said it's not only Egyptians who applaud the play's cynical view of America. Half the spectators are Gulf Arabs who find the play "expresses what they cannot say and don't hear back in their home countries," he said.

Madiba Al Safty, a sociologist at the American University in Cairo, sees the success of anti-American works as part of a "trend of resentment" towards the United States.

She notes many people are bitter that the United States, while claiming to champion human rights, has done little to stop oppression of Palestinians and Bosnian Muslims.

Mustafa Al Said, a Cairo University political scientist, said Egyptians also feel Washington did not deliver promised prosperity after the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty. Egypt gets \$2.1 billion in annual U.S. aid — the mystery injections of "Mama Amrika" — but an anticipated rush of Western investment never materialised.

"There is definitely a feeling of disappointment experienced by the majority of Egyptian people as to what they expected the U.S. could do," Mr. Al Said said.

The movie "Visit of Mr. President" also reflects a bitter view of American aid. It comes from a novel by leftist writer Yousef Al Qaid about then-president Nixon's visit to Egypt in 1974.

In the film, an entire village goes wild when the rumour spreads that Mr. Nixon will visit and bring U.S. assistance. Peasants abandon their traditional galabiyas and wear jeans and T-shirts, and soon people are fighting over who will get the American aid.

Mr. Nixon never comes, and Mr. Al Qaid said his novel was meant to "warn Egyptians against the destructive American dream and urge them to reject American aid."

### Japan haunted by phantoms of World War II

By Pierre-Antoine Donnet  
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — Fifty-three years after its surprise attack on the U.S. naval fleet at Pearl Harbour, Japan is still haunted by its militarist past which is inhibiting its ambitions to play a bigger international role.

Tokyo's devastation of the U.S. navy base in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, triggered Washington's entry into World War II and ultimately led to the downfall of the Japanese empire that once spanned much of Asia.

Following its colonisation of Korea in the early 20th century and China which it partially occupied in 1937, the Japanese military swept across much of the Asia-Pacific region, gobbling up islands and capitals in the race to construct a "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere."

This dream was destroyed with the dropping of U.S. atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and Japan's surrender on Aug. 15.

Yet nearly half a century later these dark pages of history are still a sensitive issue for Japan, with the controversy surrounding its role during the war which cost millions of lives in Asia far from over.

Last week controversy erupted again with the unveiling of a U.S. postage stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the war which depicted a mushroom cloud from an atomic bomb and carried the legend "atomic bombs hasten war's end, August 1945."

In recent months Tokyo has shown a desire to make amends with its Asian neighbours for its militarist past. Earlier this year, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama issued apologies to the victims of Japanese military aggression throughout Asia.

He said: "The war brought miserable sacrifices beyond description to people in Asia and those around the world. Always humbly, we must build relations based on trust with countries concerned."

The Japanese government

is currently studying setting up a private fund to compensate thousands of Asian women forced to become sex slaves for Japanese troops during the war.

But official statements by some of the country's leaders regularly cast doubts on the government's sincerity.

In May, then-Justice Minister Shigeto Naganuma publicly denied that the 1937 Nanjing massacre in China, one of the worst instances of Japanese aggression, ever took place.

A allied war crimes tribunal had found that Japanese troops killed more than 100,000 unarmed civilians in the city.

In August this year, environment minister, Shin Sakurai, denying the expansionist nature of the war carried on by Japan argued that the imperial army had helped settle some Asian nations from Western colonialism.

Both ministers were forced to resign, but many commentators believed their statements reflected an attitude still prevalent among Japan's ruling class.

But little by little the country's taboos are falling, giving way to a new frankness, including on the delicate issue of the responsibilities of former wartime emperor Hirohito who died in 1989.

Saburo Sakai, 78, one of the country's most famous war pilots, told foreign journalists recently: "Of course the emperor has responsibility, he was the commander-in-chief. If he shares the honour, he should also share the blame."

"If we do not stick to the spirit of the post-war constitution," he said, "we will be betraying Asia, Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

The Japanese constitution, largely imposed by the United States, prohibits the use of military force to solve international disputes.

### Ethiopia to begin war crimes trials

By Terry Leonard  
The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Somewhere, the hangman waits. The day of reckoning is at hand for Ethiopia's former military rulers.

On Tuesday, Ethiopia opens the most sweeping war crimes trials since the end of World War II, seeking the death penalty for dozens of members of the former military junta on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

The charges list 269 separate acts of genocide that tie the defendants to the killings of 1,823 identified victims.

The first weeks are expected to deal only with procedural formalities. Reading the 268 pages of charges could take days by itself, and it could be more than a month before the prosecution begins to present evidence.

Prosecutors say they have more than 309,000 pages of documents from the former government, including orders to kill. Other evidence reportedly includes videotapes made by the former regime of mass killings and audio recordings and the minutes of committee meetings that ordered executions.

"This shows there is justice and you cannot escape from justice," said Amade Akalework, whose father, a former justice minister, and uncle, the prime minister, were summarily executed by the military regime in 1974.

"It will not satisfy me — it will not bring back my family — but I hope it gives a lesson. You cannot just murder and massacre," she said.

The trial will be watched closely by those preparing for international war crimes tribunals in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

"I'm sure it will set the standards not only in Africa, but throughout the world," said Peter Bach, a Danish lawyer hired by the International Commission of Jurists to help set up a public defender's office in Ethiopia.

Prosecutors promise fair proceedings, and Mr. Bach said he has seen nothing to indicate the trials will not be fair. The government says the trials will be fully open to journalists and international observers.

Special prosecutor Ghirmai

**Santa...  
From Finland to Jordan**



Once again, Santa Claus has set on his long yearly trip from Finland packed with presents and goodies on board the new **BRITISH AIRWAYS** flight to Amman and will stay at Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan.

**Children Drawing Competition**  
age 4-10 years  
Children are invited to draw a card about Jordan and deliver it to Santa on either the 14th or 15th of December and have the opportunity to win the first prize; mother and child trip to London on board **BRITISH AIRWAYS** and 4 nights stay at Hotel Inter-Continents.

**14th of December** Santa will have an appearance at Alshila - Abelha Superstore from 4:00-6:00 p.m. to receive your cards  
Children can have a photo shoot with Santa.  
Buy now your child a gift from Alshila - Abelha Superstore and let Santa offer it on your behalf.  
For more information call 688-471/31/91

**Annual Children Christmas Party**  
15th of December 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom JD 6.500 inclusive per child  
JD 1.500 photo session with Santa  
Enter the competition and deliver your cards to Santa.  
Special Children Buffet, games, gifts and fun!  
For reservations and information please call 641361 ext. 2222.  
Drawing competition on the 15th of December at 8:00 p.m. at Alshila - Abelha Superstore

20 more prizes will be given by **HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL & ALSHILA - ABELHA SUPERSTORE** & **PEPSI**

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## Juventus, Real Madrid rise to top; Romario leads Barcelona

PARIS (AFP) — Europe's slumbering football giants stirred at weekend with Real Madrid rising to the top in the Spanish League and Juventus back again in Italy.

Chastened in the midweek European ties, Real Madrid went top on goal differences with a 2-0 win at home to struggling Oviedo while Juventus capitalised on a Parma's goalless draw at Genoa to go top on goal difference thanks to a 4-3 win at Lazio.

But victory came at a heavy price for Real, seeking self-respect after losing in the UEFA Cup third round to Danish club Odense.

Already deprived of defender Michel with knee ligament trouble, the Madrid club's playmaker Fernando Redonda was carried off with two minutes to go and will be out for at least two months.

The Argentinian international crumpled in a vicious tackle from Oviedo's Slavisa Jokanovic, who was promptly sent off. Redonda's right knee ligaments are seriously damaged, club doctor Angel Herrador said.

When the ugly incident happened Madrid were already 2-0 up with goals from 17-year-old Raul in the 50th minute and great Dane Michael Laudrup in the 60th.

Barcelona through to the Champions Cup quarter-final thanks to an unconvincing 1-1 draw with Gothenburg on Wednesday, beat Celta Vigo 4-2 to stay fourth in the table and scored one of the most astonishing goals ever seen.

With two minutes to go, they had just conceded a goal. From the restart Brazilian striker Romario popped the ball up for Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi. He looked up, saw the keeper off his line in dim light, and fired from 50 yards over his head into the net.

"It's the sweetest goal in 70 years on Spanish League football," said Barcelona vice-president Nicolau Casaus.

Four goals were scored in the last five minutes after Hristo Stoichkov and Romario had put Barcelona 2-0 up in the 15th and 59th minute respectively.

Barcelona's Dutch ace Ronald Koeman started the goal rush with an 85th minute penalty, then Losada pulled one back in the 87th minute. Hagi replied in stunning style, the Guel, in injury time, gave Oviedo solace with their second goal.

Deportivo La Coruna, level on points with Real, trail on goal difference but not for want of trying.

They shook off their midweek UEFA Cup defeat to Borussia Dortmund by beating Sevilla 5-1, with four goals scored without reply in the first half.

Zaragoza are also level on points with the two top clubs and stay up there with a 1-0 away win at Racing Santander, thanks to an own goal from Jesus Maria Merino in the 76th minute.

In Italy, Juventus snatched the leadership from Parma with their 4-3 win at Lazio.

They move one point clear of Parma and have a goal in hand and bags of confidence after beating third-placed Fiorentina only last week.

Juve are in such good form

recently that they can deliver even without their two goal machines: Roberto Baggio, out with a knee injury, and Gianluca Vialli, suspended for one match after collecting two yellow cards.

Lazio, missing their injured Croatian playmaker Alen Boksc, also lost their captain Roberto Cravero for his second warning after 27 minutes.

They were leading 1-0 though a 20th minute goal from Roberto Ramboadi at the time but Alessandro Del Piero equalised after 37 minutes.

Del Piero scored a second in the 78th minute to add to Marocchi's 54th minute, strike, and Grabbi added another eight minutes from

time.

Plucky Lazio pulled two back in the closing stages, from Casiraghi (83min) and Fuser (90).

Parma came away with a solitary point from a goalless draw at Genoa. With Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla firing blanks and Swedish attacker Tomas Brodin unavailable, Parma were content to consolidate in midfield and secure a one-point

pay-off. But it was not enough to keep them top of the league.

Fiorentina moved up to third place in the table in a heated 1-0 win against bitter rivals AS Roma.

Gabriel Batistuta, the leading scorer in Italy with 13 goals in 12 matches for Fiorentina, failed to score for only the second time this season. He missed a glorious first-half chance, with only the goalkeeper to beat after a superb back-heal from Francesco Baiano. But Giovanni Cervone close down his angle and blocked the shot.

Batistuta's Argentina international striking partner Abel Balbo, second to him in the scoring charts with eight goals and leading the attack for Roma, was equally impressive.

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With goals from Marco Simone and Dejan Savicic, Simone was on target again in the 76th minute and De Biagio got the consolation goal for the home team.

Uruguayan Ruben Sosa missed a penalty as Inter Milan went down 2-0 at home to Napoli with goals from Buso (29) and Cruz (66).

In Germany a hat-trick from playmaker Michael Zorc steered Borussia Dortmund to a 4-0 victory in Hamburg, stretching their lead to four points at the top of the Bundesliga.

Dortmund will enjoy that last victory during the Bundesliga's winter break. Zorc's third goal was also his 100th in the German league, though he is still far from Gerd Muller's legendary record of 365 goals.

Dortmund's win came as second-placed Werder Bremen dropped a point in a goalless home draw with champions Bayern Munich.

In a top of the table clash in Portugal, FC Porto and Sporting Lisbon shared the points in a 1-1 draw which leaves them equal on 24 points, though Sporting have the better goal difference.

Porto, managed by former England boss Bobby Robson, went ahead after five minutes with a goal from Brazilian Jose Carlos but midfielder Figo scored the equaliser early in the second half.

Lisbon's club Benfica ran riot at home to Boavista, winning 4-1 and moving into second place in the table with

goals from Argentina striker Claudio Caniggia and Bolivian World Cup star Erwin Sanchez.

In Liverpool Crystal Palace left Anfield with their ninth clean sheet of the season and their self-respect restored after a goalless draw with Liverpool Sunday.

Four months after they were demolished 6-1 by Liverpool on their return to the Premiership, Palace made amends with a determined and well-organised display.

Liverpool, now unbeaten at home in 11 games this season, moved back above Nottingham Forest into fourth position but they are now 10 points behind leaders Blackburn.

In Athens Panathinaikos Athens scored three first-half goals Sunday to beat Xanthi 3-1 and increase its lead in the Greek first division soccer league.

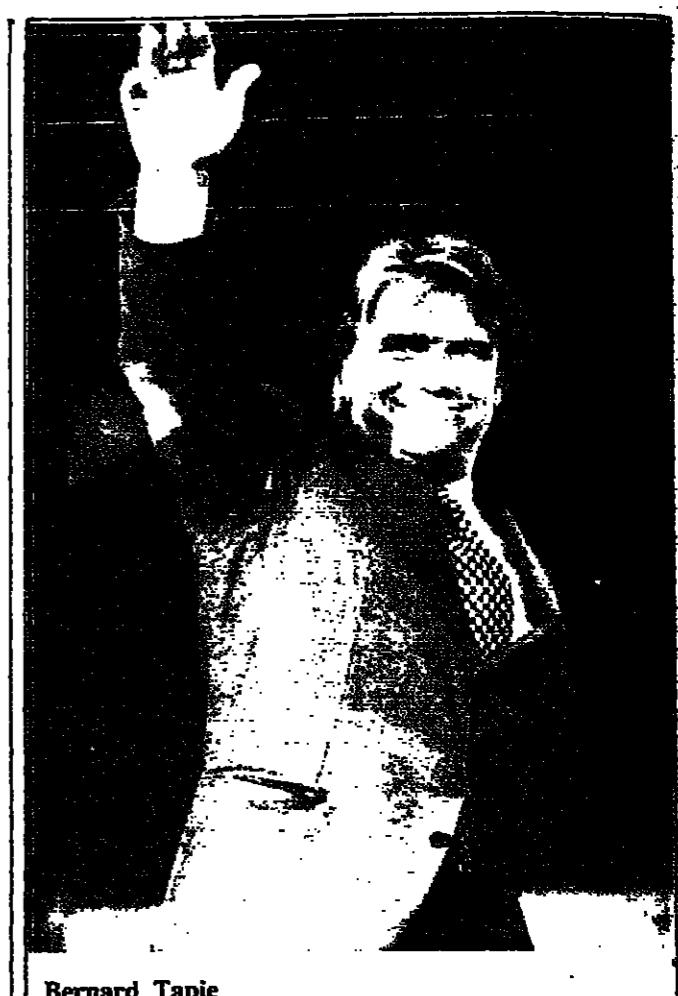
Dortmund's win came as second-placed Oly Creti to Ionikos Nikea, helped Panathinaikos increase its lead from five to eight points.

After 12 rounds, Panathinaikos has 34 points as against 26 by Oly.

Pao Salonicci and cross-town Iraklis share third place with 23 points each.

Pao played to a scoreless draw against Doxa in Drama and Iraklis beat Aris Salonica 3-1 at home.

Panathinaiko dominated the game, played before 7,000 spectators at the Athens Olympic Stadium.



Bernard Tapie

## Tapie steps down as Marseille president

MARSEILLE (R) — Ex-television anchorman Pierre Cangioni Sunday took over from Maverick businessman Bernard Tapie as president of former European soccer champions Marseille.

"We don't have mines and we don't have oil. But we have a lot of ideas," Cangioni said.

Tapie himself said the new club leaders would pour in enough money for Marseille to be a competitive team but maybe not at the highest European level.

"The budget the team will have is enough to qualify for a European Cup competition," he said.

Cangioni said: "You've had Santa Claus as a president for eight years. It was something unique in the history of French soccer, a president ready to pour in \$50 million (\$10 million) or a big structure like (TV network) Canal Plus."

Canal Plus own Paris St Germain, who took over from Marseille as French League champions last season.

## Cantona to lead France against Azerbaijan

PARIS (AFP) — Eric Cantona must prove that 50,000 Frenchmen can be wrong when he captains France for what could easily be the last time Tuesday.

If a rowdy French lynch mob have their way, Cantona, English footballer of the year and one of the most gifted players of his generation, may never even play for France again.

Should France thrash Azerbaijan in their European Championship qualifier, it will probably make very little difference to Cantona's prospects.

French Football League and Football Federation officials have already absorbed the lessons from a string of recent disappointments at international level.

Cantona might not figure in their plans for 1995 and the

## Blazers upset Kings

PORLAND (R) — Rod Strickland scored 24 points, including a driving layup with 36 seconds left that sealed a 93-88 victory on Sunday for the Portland Trail Blazers against the Sacramento Kings.

Strickland's layup came off a give-and-go with Clyde Rexler and helped the Blazers extend their homecourt mastery of the Kings, who came to Portland riding a four-game winning streak, to 22 games in a row.

Strickland added eight assists and Drexler scored 17 points for the Blazers, who never trailed after taking a 6-4 lead. Mitch Richmond and Rookie Brian Grant scored 17 points apiece and Walt Williams added 10 for Sacramento. Richmond and Williams, the team's two leading scorers, were limited to a woeful 7-of-42 from the field.

But the Kings managed to keep the game close.

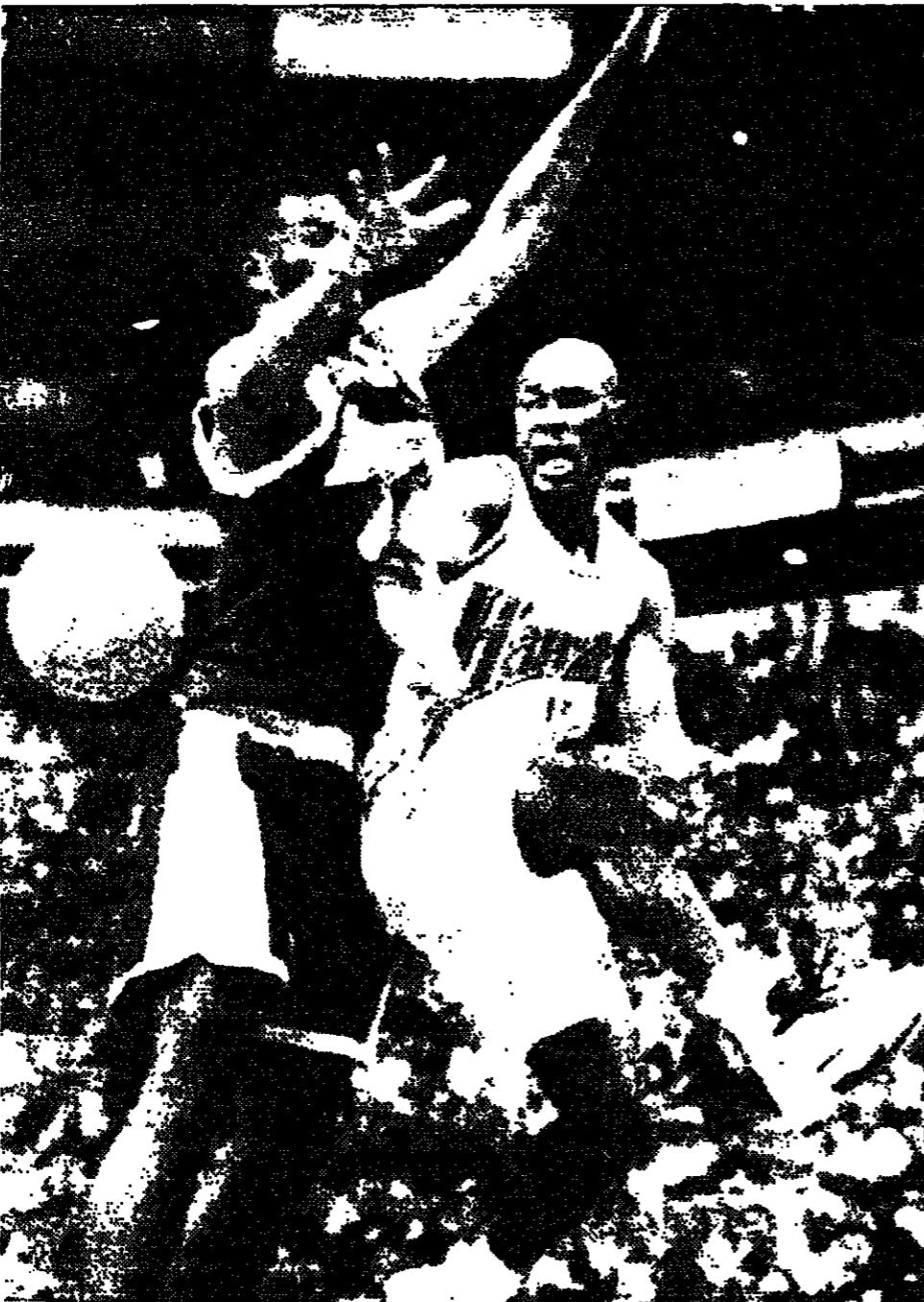
A layup by Grant and a free throw by Richmond, who was a wretched 4-of-23 from the field, closed the deficit to 89-86 with 1:23 to go.

Buck Williams made a 16-footer for Portland and Walt Williams, who was 3-of-19 from the field, scored for the Kings before Strickland's layup provided a four-point lead.

Strickland and Drexler scored seven points apiece in the first quarter as Portland grabbed a 21-17 lead, a 10-footer by James Robinson opened the advantage to 31-21 with 8:37 left in the second period and the Blazers held a 51-43 halftime lead.

The Blazers led by as many as 14 points in the third quarter before the diminutive Spud Webb capped a 10-2 run with an 18-foot jumper that brought the Kings within 74-70 early in the final period.

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Atlanta Hawks' Mookie Blaylock (right) passes around L.A. Lakers' Elden Campbell in their NBA game. The Lakers won 92-87 (AFP photo)

## Christie calls for Modahl justice

LONDON (AFP) — Linford Christie called for Diane

Modahl to be cleared of drug-taking when she appears before a British Athletic Federation disciplinary Tuesday. Christie claimed on a radio show Sunday that not to clear the 800 metre runner would be an injustice. The British men's team captain also ques-

tioned the composition of the five-strong panel which will hear the case. Modahl, a devout Christian, tested positive after a meeting in Lisbon in June and was found to have astonishingly high levels of testosterone, the bodybuilding hormone. "Diane doesn't know anything about drugs. If she is not found

innocent, justice has not been done." If Modahl is found guilty she will be banned from competition until 1998 by which time she will be 32 years old and as a proven drugs offender will never again be chosen to represent Britain in the Olympic Games.

How baseball's rules would change following the imposition of the cap.

Fehr said the union will respond to the proposal only when it fully understands the proposal, but said his group will try to have an answer by Monday.

In another development, union lawyer Eugene Orza said the labor department has certified the strike. That means clubs can't ask for visas for replacement players.

Management lawyer Chuck O'Connor said one difficulty created by the certification is that it would take Major Leaguers several weeks to obtain visas once the strike is settled.

## U.S. baseball strike enters 5th month

RYE BROOK, N.Y. (AP) — It's the players' turn to respond as the Major League Baseball strike entered its fifth month Monday.

Owners made a new proposal Sunday, replacing a escalating payroll tax with a flat tax. The union, however, said the proposed tax would act just like a salary cap — the main reason players went on strike in the first place.

The exchange left the two sides almost as far apart as they were when the strike began Aug. 12.

Management negotiator John Harrington said the plan was a "substantial move" by the owners, who

said his side needed time to analyze the plan, but his initial reaction wasn't positive.

"At first blush, it appears their new proposal contains virtually all the elements of the salary cap," he said.

In an effort to hold down operating costs, team owners have been trying to limit player salaries.

Harrington has said previously that owners will declare an impasse and impose a salary cap unless an agreement is reached by then. A management lawyer, speaking on condition he not be identified, said general managers were sent a packet of material Nov. 28 detailing

how baseball's rules would change following the imposition of the cap.

Fehr said the union will respond to the proposal only when it fully understands the proposal, but said his group will try to have an answer by Monday.

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Jansher pulls out over safety fears

NEW DELHI (AFP) — World squash champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan pulled out of the Mahindra international tournament in Bombay at the last moment Sunday over fears for his personal safety, the Press Trust of India reported. Khan did not turn up for the draw of the \$85,000 Mahindra Squash Challenge Tournament, the organisers said in the western city of Bombay. A number of Pakistani cricketers received death threats here following the desecration of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics in December 1992, which fuelled Hindu-Muslim riots in the city.

### Hill picks up leading British award

LONDON (R) — Formula One motor racing driver Damon Hill picked up one of Britain's top sports awards Sunday. Hill was voted the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, ahead of athletes Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson. Hill finished second in this year's World Drivers Championship to Germany's Michael Schumacher, losing his chance of the title after the pair were involved in a controversial collision in the final race of the season at Adelaide. West Indies cricketer Brian Lara who re-wrote the record books during 1994, picked up the award for BBC overseas sports personality.

### Zairean witchdoctor blamed for defeat

NAIROBI (AFP) — Zaire's Daring Club Motema Pembe who beat Kenya Breweries 3-0 on Sunday to win the Africa Cup Winners Cup brought a witchdoctor to cast a spell over their opponents, newspapers reported Monday. The Standard newspaper said the Breweries' debacle was orchestrated by the ash-painted, clean-shaven, bare-chested Zairean "jujuman" who had his whole body adorned with his witchcraft paraphernalia.

### Yugoslavia, Brazil to meet in soccer match

BELGRADE (AFP) — Yugoslavia, who missed the 1992 European Championships in Sweden following a United Nations sporting ban, face World champions Brazil Dec. 23 for their first away match in two years. They also play Argentina in a friendly four days later, following the lifting of the ban last month.

### Former Scotland striker faces drugs probe

LONDON (R) — Scottish football authorities are set to probe newspaper reports that former Celtic and West Ham striker Frank McAvennie took cocaine. McAvennie, 35, who played five times for Scotland, claims to have spent between £50 (\$80) and £70 (\$10) a time on

# Sports

## Athletes to watch start of '96 Olympics on TV

ATLANTA (Agencies) — Olympics athletes will start the 1996 Games by watching the opening ceremony on television.

A plan to seat the 10,000 competitors in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and march them to the adjacent Olympic Stadium for the traditional parade passed a major hurdle Sunday with final approval from the IOC athletes commission.

Unless objections are raised in the executive board, the International Olympic Committee's final review level, the athletes will watch the start of the ceremonies on Friday night, July 19, 1996, on the giant TV screen in the stadium that has been home of the Atlanta Braves U.S. Major League Baseball club since 1966.

During the ceremonies the teams would leave their seats in the old stadium and march across the street to the main Olympic stadium, now under construction.

Following the traditional parade of athletes, with Greece leading the way and the host United States bringing up the rear, the teams will remain in the main stadium for the rest of the ceremonies.

"We finalized what we basically agreed to in Paris," said Prince Albert of Monaco, vice chairman of the athletes commission. Albert said officials were studying ways of assuring the athletes didn't miss a second of the ceremonies — perhaps even installing television sets along the 400-metre route between the two stadiums so they could monitor the action.

Sunday's meetings began a week of sessions involving the IOC and the Association of National Olympic Committees, the main business will be for the world's almost 200 NOCs to see the venues where the '96 games will take place and review preparations for the 100th birthday of the modern Olympics.

While the athletes always have marched in the opening ceremonies, they often have appeared almost as afterthoughts, kept in staging areas ahead of time and unable to watch the party being thrown in their honour.

At the 1992 Barcelona Games, the athletes were allowed to stay on the stadium infield and watch the end of the ceremonies and a massive fireworks show. They wanted at least the same in Atlanta, and organisers wanted to make sure the athletes could watch the show and still make a grand entrance.

Although the athletes commission just about completed work on opening ceremonies,

it did not touch on the issue of when to run the men's marathon.

Traditionally, the marathon has been the final competition, finishing in the main stadium during the closing ceremonies. That would mean starting the 42.2-kilometre race in the womb of the heat and humidity of a Southeastern American summer afternoon.

Critics, including many runners, contend the timing of the race poses health dangers. They have urged that the race be run in the cool of the morning, as the women's marathon will be.

**Officials ready:**  
Flags, anthems

In 1992, Atlanta was embarrassed when its baseball team, the Braves, hosted the Toronto Blue Jays in the World Series and accidentally flew the Canadian flag upside down.

During the 1996 summer Olympic Games, the city doesn't want a repeat.

Changes in the world, especially the birth of new countries as communist regimes collapsed, have complicated things.

That's why the U.S. Army band will play close to 200 country's anthems this week as organisers work to ensure they have the right flag and national anthem for every participating country.

They will tape the songs, which will be played back to representatives attending the Association of National Olympic Committees meeting here this week, each of the 196 country representatives will be asked to verify his country's flag and anthem.

The task is especially complicated in the case of about a dozen countries whose national symbols are missing from U.S. government files. In most cases, the country is so new that it doesn't yet have a flag or anthem. In other cases, the country may not have diplomatic ties with the United States. Those countries have been asked to bring sheet music with them this week.

The last was the Goodwill Games, where a Norwegian won and they raised the Swedish flag and played the Swedish national anthem.

And to make matters even more complex, one country — South Africa may adopt a new flag and anthem before the Games.

**IOC leaders tackle Chinese doping riddle**

Olympic leaders will try to make sense of China's doping riddle at their meetings in Atlanta this week.

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## Larsson upsets Sampras to earn \$1.5m

MUNICH (R) — Magnus Larsson capped the biggest week of his career by overpowering past world No. 1 Pete Sampras to take the richest first prize in tennis at the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup Sunday.

Larsson, who had helped Sweden win the Davis Cup final a week earlier, demolished a firing Sampras with his relentless serving power to win 7-6 4-6 7-6 6-4 in two hours and 38 minutes.

At the same time the International Olympic Committee (IOC) itself apparently buys the explosion of Chinese doping should be laid at the door of individual athletes and coaches, rather than the country's sports leaders.

Although doping accusations — particularly in swimming and athletics — have been widespread for several years, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch declared in October that he believed Chinese sport was "very clean."

His words came back to haunt him last month when the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced that a total of 11 Chinese athletes in four sports had tested positive for the anabolic steroid dehydrotestosterone (DHT) at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October.

An IOC spokesman said recently that Samaranch's "very clean" declaration had been meant as a signal to Chinese Olympic officials that he was confident they would put their house in order.

But the house looked decidedly dishevelled last week when Manfred Donike, a member of the IOC's doping sub-commission and the world's foremost doping expert, said there was no doubt China had been systematically doping its swimmers.

Donike, who runs IOC-approved anti-doping laboratory in Cologne and was involved in analysing the Hiroshima urine samples, said: "From the tests it can be concluded that there is systematic doping with the substance dehydrotestosterone in swimming."

Although the IOC acknowledges the seriousness of the situation, it has been at pains to exonerate the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC), which on Thursday banned the seven swimmers for two weeks ago.

Nevertheless he had the consolation of a \$750,000 second prize together with the

\$250,000 bonus for each of the two Grand Slam events he has won this year.

The tall American looked suggestively from the outset and said he had not recovered from a grueling 3 1/2 hour semifinal against Goran Ivanisevic less than 24 hours earlier.

"It's tough on the body, it's tough on the mind and it just took its toll today," he said.

But he also paid tribute to Larsson: "He's very underrated and someone who'll be a force next year."

Confronted after the game with the problem of spending \$1.5 million, Larsson had his emotions well under control.

"If I want to it's no problem," he said. "It's a lot of money but money isn't everything in the world."

"When I was younger I went to the casino a lot but now I don't gamble that much. Maybe tonight."

Leading 1994 prize money winners issued by the ATP Tour Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (U.S.)	\$3,607,812
2. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)	\$3,031,874
3. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	\$2,489,161
4. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)	\$2,060,278
5. Michael Stich (Germany)	\$2,033,623
6. Boris Becker (Germany)	\$2,029,756
7. Andre Agassi (U.S.)	\$1,941,667
8. Jim Courier (U.S.)	\$1,921,584
9. Michael Chang (U.S.)	\$1,789,495
10. Andre Medvedev (Ukraine)	\$1,211,134
11. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)	\$1,063,341
12. Jacco Ettings (Netherlands)	\$1,053,619
13. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)	\$1,011,563
14. Alberto Berasategui (Spain)	\$939,651
15. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands)	\$930,961
16. Todd Martin (U.S.)	\$888,342
17. Mark Woodforde (Australia)	\$885,924
18. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)	\$768,004
19. Jonas Bjorkman (Sweden)	\$756,552
20. Jonathan Stark (U.S.)	\$689,379

World No. 1 Pete Sampras

thought I could come here and play without any pressure. I think this is the best Christmas present I could get," he said.

For Sampras it was an anti-climatic end to a week when he looked like a week when he looked like the biggest chequer in tennis to the Australian and Wimbledon titles he won this year and the ATP world championship he took just three weeks ago.

Nevertheless he had the consolation of a \$750,000 second prize together with the



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Presents: A world famed movie picture worth watching: <b>THE FLINTSTONES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Gary Busey & Michael Pare — in <b>WARRIORS</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' So I Married An Axe Murderer Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	CONCORD '2' Kim Basinger — in <b>GETAWAY</b> Shows: 3:15, 5:00 p.m. only.	very soon Muss Hajazin (Suma'h) in political satire Hi...Citizen <b>CHILDREN'S PLAY</b> Water Is A Blessing From Heaven Time 10:00 a.m.	Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day

## Russians, Chechens clash as they open peace talks

GROZNY (AFP) — Russian troops, backed by helicopter gunships and planes, fought with Chechen forces Monday, as the two sides started last-ditch talks aimed at averting a full-scale assault on the breakaway republic's capital Grozny.

The talks in Vladikavkaz, the capital of neighbouring North Ossetia, got under way as thousands of Russian troops and hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles awaited orders to seize Grozny from nearby positions.

The clash, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) northwest of Grozny, was the first direct confrontation between the Russians and the secessionist Chechens.

Chechen soldiers loyal to President Dzhokhar Dudayev fired a surface-to-surface missile at a column of Russian armoured vehicles sent to impose order on the separatist republic, a photographer on the spot said.

The Russian tanks opened fire in return. They were backed up by helicopters firing rockets and by four war planes, the witness said.

A spokesman for the government of the breakaway Russian republic confirmed that there had been fighting. Explosions could be heard from Grozny.

"The Russian army attacked Chechen government forces and fighting is taking place," spokesman Movladi Udugov said, without giving further details.

Interfax news agency said two Russians were killed and several wounded.

Thousands of Russian troops and hundreds of armoured vehicles poured into the Caucasus republic Sunday to clamp down on a three-year bid by Dudayev to win independence from Rus-

sia.

Grozny was virtually encircled Monday, but Russian authorities at the military base in Mozdok said foggy weather was hampering any possible attack. ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Yeltsin spokesman Viatcheslav Kostikov as saying there were no plans to storm the capital.

The Russian delegation to the talks was led by Deputy Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov and the Chechens by Economy Minister Taimaz Abubakarov, the Russian press centre on Chechnya said in Moscow.

There was no indication of what was being discussed at the talks, which Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday he hoped would secure a "political solution" to the crisis.

On Sunday, two civilians were killed and eight wounded in a clash between Russian troops and locals on the border between Dagestan and Chechnya, Russian and Chechen sources said.

Around 50 Russian soldiers had been taken prisoner following the clash, the sources said.

In Grozny, official sources said that between 47 and 58 Russian soldiers had been taken prisoner after Russians opened fire on locals attempting to prevent them from entering Chechnya from Dagestan.

The prisoners were to be presented to the press later Monday in Grozny, the Chechen sources said.

In Moscow, the Russian government's information centre said 48 Russian troops had been captured, including eight officers.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Yegorov has called on the Dagestan authorities to see that the pris-

oners were freed.

Clashes between Russians and unknown assailants in Ingushetia republic left between three and five people dead Sunday as Russian troops moved into neighbouring Chechnya.

In Moscow, the parliament said it will hold a plenary session Tuesday to discuss a "political" settlement in Chechnya.

"Political methods have not been exhausted and the Duma (the lower parliamentary chamber) has decided to meet Tuesday" to discuss them, said Mikhail Mitukov, one of the Duma vice-presidents after meeting representatives of political parties.

Five thousand people demonstrated against the intervention.

Chechnya, located in the Caucasus mountains of southern Russia, declared independence in 1991. Russia has refused to recognise the claim and has backed Chechen forces opposed to Dudayev, a former Soviet air force general.

A mostly Muslim nation of 1.2 million people, Chechnya has a traditional warrior culture and an abiding hatred of Russia.

The crisis in Chechnya has been building for months, and on Friday, Yeltsin gave the go-ahead to use force.

The two political parties closest to Mr. Yeltsin began discussing possible impeachment proceedings against him in the state Duma. It was not clear if such an action would be legally possible.

At a peace rally before the meeting, lawmaker Sergei Yushenkov said Mr. Yeltsin should be impeached for "inflaming" ethnic conflict. "I see no other way of stopping the president," he said.

**'Have you come to kill us?'**

### Chechens ask Russian 'invader'

CHERVENNAYA, Russia (AFP) — The Russian major, leaping against an army truck with a machinegun strapped across his back, drew on his cigarette as he watched his troops install a guard post outside this north Chechen village.

Part of the intervention force that poured into Chechnya Sunday with orders from Moscow to end this repressive Russian republic's three-year secession bid, he gave his name as Sergei.

Choosing his words carefully, he told an AFP reporter that he and his men — "perhaps 500 or 600 in all" —

reached this village around 30 kilometres north of the Chechen capital Grozny Sunday morning via the neighbouring Russian republic of Dagestan.

Suddenly, he stepped back and readjusted his shoulder strap. Seconds later he was surrounded by a reception committee of around a dozen irate Chechens from the nearby village.

"Do you want to repeat here the massacres that have taken place in Georgia, Armenia, and elsewhere in the Caucasus?" one of them asked by way of introduction.

Tensions rose as Sergei declined to answer.

### Boys, buses, fears, flags

By Abdullah Hasanat

The Bedouin Palestinian boy tending his camels and sheep from the back of his donkey on the western bank of the River Jordan was not aware of the 20 odd journalists in a blue bus heading for Tel Aviv to attend an historic event.

Nor was the Israeli Hasidic boy with his shaved head, yarmulke and sideburns waiting at a traffic light looking at the Arab faces in the yellow Israeli tourist bus. While the journalists stared in apprehension at what was happening around them, and easily noticed the contrast between what Arab and Jewish boys did, their minds were preoccupied with thinking about what lay ahead. Some of them no doubt were still trying to reconcile themselves to the fact that Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa are not theirs any more and that the opening of the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv on Dec. 11 was another step towards acknowledging the new reality.

Standing on the terrace of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, overlooking Jerusalem, they wondered about the past, present and future of this city, this land and the region as a whole.

"Look at their faces," one woman journalist said to another as their colleagues climbed back into the bus after a brief photo-taking session.

Yes, some of the faces reflected unease, but some had no impression and one at least was smiling almost uncontrollably.

Their minds were also occupied by more mundane and down-to-earth matters. Children's school fees, competition at work, bank credits, spouses and so on. And that was reflected by heavy smoking on the bus, which was all right as far as the Jordanians were concerned but not so with the Israelis.

Smoking was not allowed on the Israeli bus which carried a sign "EC regulation No. 66," and the Israeli driver of Moroccan origin had to remind the journalists that smoking was prohibited since this was a "tourist bus." In the absence of ashtrays the tiles "made of PVC" might catch fire. But the chain-smoking, nervous journalists were not deterred. They constructed their own ashtrays and passed them around. The people of the press had all the reasons to be nervous: the 200 odd kilometres from Amman to Tel Aviv took six hours to cover. On the Jordanian side, where prior coordination seemed to have been missing, the Jordanian officials were very cordial, yet the formalities took an hour to complete.

The Israelis, though cordial as their Jordi-

onian counterparts, were more formal. They demanded passports that the journalists did not carry. It took another hour to call the Israeli foreign office in Jerusalem to get the clearance. (The journey back took less than four hours).

One more element that added to the nervousness was the traffic lights and traffic jams on the Israeli side. Although it was not rush hour, the journalists were told, the 130-kilometre journey from the Israeli border checkpoint to Tel Aviv took almost three hours to complete. Israeli traffic lights must be spaced at 100 metres intervals since Israeli drivers are impatient as their Arab colleagues.

The aftermath of accidents, old and fresh, could be seen everywhere. But worst of all, Israeli drivers shout and swear, which makes you feel at home.

And that is what they did in front of the beach-side Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv, home of the Jordanian embassy, where traffic moves at a snail's pace.

The journalists were starving by now, so they were whisked off to room 260 for turkey sandwiches and coffee. (Later, on the way back, the journalists indulged in falafel sandwiches at a Palestinian kiosk in the outskirts of Jerusalem).

Back at the Dan Hotel, Omar Rifai, head of the Jordanian delegation, from the Foreign Ministry took the journalists to the small hall where the ceremony, to be attended by foreign diplomats, was to be held. He said he would stand on the podium, in front of King Hussein's portrait on the wall behind him, make the announcement and then unveil the flag, until that moment roped in a white cloth on his side.

And that is what Mr. Rifai did exactly at the ceremony's appointed hour, 1600 hours Tel Aviv time. The thing that was not very clear though was whether the diplomats from Egypt, the United States, Russia and the European Community showed up, since Mr. Rifai was literally hidden from view by Israeli and international journalists and video cameras.

But judging from the number of smart-looking people attending the ceremony, the diplomats must have been there.

Mr. Rifai then led the crowd out to the main entrance of the Dan Hotel for the flag-raising ceremony. And while the Jordanian flag glided up on the mast, cameras videotaped the historical moment for children — Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli — to see and think about in the future.

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REGENT VISITS AIR FORCE UNITS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday made an inspection tour of military positions and a number of Jordanian Royal Air Force units. Accompanied by senior officers, the Prince first visited the Prince Faisal Technical

College and was briefed on its services. He later visited the Air Force transport squadron and the Air Force general headquarters. The Regent visited a number of Air Force bases and inspected workshops for the maintenance of aircraft.

### PNA refuses to extradite settler killers

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority is refusing to hand over to Israel two cousins who murdered a Jewish settler and now work in the Gaza intelligence service, one of the cousins told AFP Monday.

"We asked to have municipal elections as soon as possible," Hamas leader Imad Faluji told AFP.

He estimated that Hamas, which is fighting on against Israeli occupation, would win at least 40 per cent of the vote.

But Mr. Faluji stressed that the movement would not participate in elections to an autonomy council unless it was totally independent from Israel and had real legislative power, including the power to scrap the 1993 self-rule agreement.

"But I am sure the authority will not listen to the Israelis. The authority will take care of us," he said in an interview.

Mr. Rajah and his cousin Amr Abu Sita shot dead settler Uri Megiddo March 8, 1993, in a greenhouse at the settlement of Gan Or.

Both were members of the Hawks, armed wing of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO movement Fatah.

Israel demanded their extradition last Sept. 29 under the autonomy agreement which calls for the Palestinian authority to hand over Palestinian suspects.

Some Palestinian officials argue that the agreement does not cover offences committed before the signing of the self-rule deal in September 1993.

"I can turn myself in to the Israelis, but on condition that they give us the names of all the Israeli undercover soldiers who have killed Palestinians since the autonomy agreement.

"They should all be handed over to the authority in Gaza," 22-year-old Rajah said.

He listed about a dozen Palestinians murdered by Israel.

However the autonomy accord does not oblige Israel to hand over Israeli suspects to the Palestinians.

Rajah, from Khan Younes, alleged that Israeli agents have already tried to kill him on numerous occasions and searched his family home just two weeks ago, even though it is in the autonomous area.

Israel has so far submitted three formal requests for suspects to be handed over under the autonomy deal.

Assassins kill Palestinian woman

In Jericho also Monday, masked assailants in the Jordanian self-rule area of Jericho shot and killed a newlywed woman and injured her husband in what appeared to be a revenge shooting, Palestinian police said.

Three masked men broke into the apartment of Ibrahim Amr before dawn and opened fire on the sleeping couple, who were married just last week.

Rasmiya, 20, was killed in the shooting, and her husband Ibrahim, 25, was lightly injured and taken to a Jericho hospital. Mr. Amr is serving out the remainder of a life-sentence prison term in the PLO-run Jericho area after he was released from an Israeli prison in July as part of the self-rule agreement.

Mr. Amr was convicted by the Israelis of killing a Palestinian he believed had collaborated with the Israeli authorities in the West Bank village of Dura just south of Hebron.

### Hamas ready for elections

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas is ready to take part in town hall elections and is negotiating with the Palestinian National Authority for an early ballot, a senior Islamist said Monday.

"We asked to have municipal elections as soon as possible," Hamas leader Imad Faluji told AFP.

He estimated that Hamas, which is fighting on against Israeli occupation, would win at least 40 per cent of the vote.

But Mr. Faluji stressed that the movement would not participate in elections to an autonomy council unless it was totally independent from Israel and had real legislative power, including the power to scrap the 1993 self-rule agreement.

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